

1 **STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE**
PLANTATIONS

2

PROCEEDINGS AT:

3

School Committee Town of Cumberland

4

5 **IN RE: Cumberland Space Utilization Task Force**
 Recommendation

6

7

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2008

TIME: 7:30 P.M.

8

PLACE: Cumberland High School
 Auditorium

9

2600 Mendon Road

Cumberland, RI

10

11 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

12 Donald J. Costa/Vice Chair

Karen MacBeth/Clerk

13 W. David Wagner

Robert Thibodeau

14 Lisa Beauleiu

Earl T. Wood

15

16

APPEARANCES:

17

FOR THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE:

18

Joseph A. Rotella, Esquire

19

20 ALSO PRESENT:

21 Donna A. Morelle, Ed.D/Superintendent

Susan C. Carney, Ph.D/Assistant Superintendent

22 John Gibbons/Space Utilization Task Force

23

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24 115 PHENIX AVENUE
 CRANSTON, RI 02920
25 (401) 946-5500

2

1 (HEARING COMMENCED AT 7:35 P.M.)

2 MR. COSTA: Can I have your attention? We

3 are going to be starting the meeting in a few minutes.

4 Anybody wishing to speak this evening, we have two

5 sign-up sheets right there over in either aisles, if you

6 wish to speak. We are going to, we have a format that we

7 wish to adhere to this evening to make the meeting go

8 smoothly.

9 (OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION)

10 **Okay. I'd like to open the Cumberland School**

11 **Committee Meeting of March 11, 2008 at 7:35. First thing**

12 **on the agenda is the approval of the agenda.**

13 **MR. WAGNER: So moved.**

14 **MR. COSTA: Motion by Mr. Wagner, seconded**

15 **by Mr. Wood. Discussion? Hearing none, all in favor.**

16 **(AYE)**

17 **MR. COSTA: The ayes have it, six to**

18 **nothing. Mrs. Beauleiu will be here rather shortly.**

19 **MR. COSTA: Five nothing, excuse me. The**

20 **next thing on the agenda is the public hearing, the**

21 **Cumberland Space Utilization Task Force**
Recommendation.

22 This evening, I will turn this portion over to
23 Mr. Rotella. We have a protocol for the public hearing
24 this evening regarding the Space Utilization Task Force
25 Recommendation. Mr. Rotella.

3

1 MR. ROTELLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For
2 everyone in the audience the protocol is at the table at
3 the back of the foyer. There are agendas, and at the
4 back of that agenda there is a protocol that we have laid
5 out for tonight's public meeting. I'm going to go
6 through it item by item so that if anybody does not have
7 it they can have an opportunity to get one. If they do

8 have it, it rather speaks for itself. "The following
9 procedure will be used in order to allow all those who
10 choose to provide testimony an opportunity to do so:

The

11 recommendations of the task force will be read and
12 entered into the record; the chairperson of the task
13 force will be allowed to address the school committee
14 regarding those recommendations; the list of
15 recommendations for elementary street directory will be
16 reviewed alphabetically by street; any person wishing to
17 speak regarding a particular street assignment will be
18 asked to sign in on the sign-in form placed at each

19 podium identifying the following: Your name and
address,

20 the name of the street in question. Each person will be
21 allowed a maximum of five minutes to provide their
22 testimony for or against the task force recommendation;
23 upon completion of the elementary street directory list,
24 the recommendation to middle school street directory
will
25 be reviewed alphabetically by street; the same procedure

1 outlined in Item No. 4 will be used; any person who
2 wishes may submit written testimony to the committee,
3 which written testimony will be included within the
4 record of these hearings. All public testimony will be

5 recorded and become part of the record of this, and any

6 subsequent hearing on these recommendations." One
other

7 thing, the scheduled conclusion of tonight's meeting will

8 be 10:00 P.M., and the only item on the listed agenda

9 allows for public testimony regarding the
recommendations

10 to the task force. Okay. With that, Mr. Costa.

11 MR. COSTA: Mr. Rotella, I want to make it

12 clear that there will be no vote taken this evening,

13 whatsoever. It's informational this evening. We'll be

14 taking notes. As you know, there is another meeting

15 scheduled for March 20th, I believe, Mr. Rotella.

16 MR. ROTELLA: Yes.

2 them all. We may address the school committee, that's
3 fine.

4 **MR. ROTELLA:** The recommendations to

5 **Mr. Crowley, Chairperson Cumberland School Committee**
from

6 **Jonathan Gibbons, Chairperson of the Space Utilization**

7 **Task Force Subcommittee regarding the Committee**

8 **Recommendations. On behalf of the Space Utilization**
Task

9 **Force Subcommittee we are pleased to present our final**

10 **recommendations. The committee of ten has met weekly**

11 **from late November through last night, and this is dated**

12 **February 14, 2008. Our meetings have been posted,**
have

13 **been well-attended by concerned parents. We have**

heard

14 input from the town planners, school principals, Pre-K

15 directors, school administrators and parents. After
much

16 debate the committee makes the following
recommendations:

17 Number one, move the Pre-K program into the B.F.
Norton

18 School as long as all building and public education

19 regulations can be met.

20 Number two, on the elementary school level we

21 are recommending some adjustments be made to
Cumberland

22 Hill School and Community School boundaries to allow

23 Cumberland Hill to remain a full four-track school for

24 the future. Included in this is the option to move two

25 sessions, one morning and one afternoon, of
kindergarten

6

1 students back to Cumberland Hill, or keep all
Cumberland

2 Hill kindergarten students at Community. The streets

3 that are affected are in the documents that we have

4 enclosed.

5 Number three, we are presenting two options to the

6 Cumberland School Committee regarding the middle
schools,

7 a Plan A and a Plan B. Please note, on the street list

8 directory we have given you they are both listed along
9 with a chart showing them what the plans mean for the
10 next several years, according to our estimates. We have
11 also found that the NESDEC reports have been pretty
12 accurate in forecasting.

13 Number four, the subcommittee is also
recommending

14 the school committee grandfather current students in
15 grades four, five, and seven at their present schools.

16 MR. GIBBONS: It's four, six, and seven.

17 MR. ROTELLA: I'm sorry, four, six and
18 seven.

19 Number five, we recommend that each household that
20 could be changed due to our actions be notified prior to

21 your public hearing so that they may be heard, if they
22 choose to do so.

23 Number six, the subcommittee recommends to the

24 school committee that the space needed to have
Cumberland

25 Hill a true four-track K-5 school is 22 functioning

7

1 classrooms. Currently, the school has 20 plus one

2 substandard classroom. Ashton should have 17 rooms
to

3 make it a true three-track school, and we currently have

4 16 functioning classrooms. Numerous comments were
made

5 about portable classrooms being an option for the future.

6 Without addressing this area both schools will see space

7 problems for the foreseeable future.

8 Number seven, the subcommittee understands that
the

9 school committee will schedule two public hearings prior

10 to adopting any changes. The committee requests that

11 those public hearings not be held during school vacation

12 week so that all parents will have an opportunity to

13 attend those sessions. That is the sum and substance of

14 the recommendation that has been made by the

15 subcommittee. We will at this point begin with an

16 alphabetical listing of --

17 (OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION)

18 MR. COSTA: What I'd like to do at this

19 present time is take the first recommendation, which is

20 move the Pre-K program into B.F. Norton School as long
as

21 all building and education regulations can be met. Does

22 anybody want to speak on this particular issue on the

23 preschool? Dr. Morelle, we have --

24 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Costa, school committee

25 members had not indicated that that was going to be a

1 topic of discussion this evening. I would ask that you

2 put that as a topic on March 20th and the administration
3 would be prepared to bring forward testimony that would
4 indicate that we have the space, and I believe the
5 recommendation said that if it could meet the educational
6 and legal requirement, and we would bring forward
7 testimony that we are able to do that if you would be
8 prepared to put that on the agenda for, or the discussion
9 on March 20th, the administration would provide
testimony
10 that evening.

11 MR. COSTA: Any objection from the
12 committee? Mr. Wood.

13 MR. WOOD: Could we have copies of this
14 testimony or data prior to the meeting?

15 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle.

16 DR. MORELLE: I would be happy to provide

17 you with the materials that Mrs. Gibney, Mrs. Maloney
and

18 the central administration have been working on with

19 Mr. Hilton as well, yes.

20 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle, can we also have

21 what needs to be done, perhaps?

22 DR. MORELLE: I will provide you with a full

23 range of materials that would satisfy your need to know

24 about that recommendation, absolutely.

25 MR. COSTA: Okay. So, no objection. We'll

1 have this tabled until March 20th. The second item is on

2 the elementary school level. We are recommending the

3 same adjustments be made between Cumberland Hill
School

4 and Community School boundaries to allow Cumberland
Hill

5 to remain a full four-track school for the future.

6 Included in this option is to move two sessions, one

7 morning and one afternoon, of kindergarten students
back

8 to Cumberland Hill or keep all Cumberland Hill

9 kindergarten students at Community. The streets that
are

10 affected are within the documents that have been

11 enclosed. Is there anybody in the audience who wishes

--

12 we'll start with the alphabetical listing. That's why I

13 requested a map, so I can know where some of these

14 streets are myself.

15 MR. ROTELLA: The Space Utilization Task

16 Force list is also out in the foyer, and hopefully

17 everybody has gotten a copy. We tried to provide

18 everyone with a copy of that list. We are starting with

19 the As, Abbey Drive, and I will read them down one
street

20 at a time right through the As, and if anybody would like

21 to offer any testimony on any of that, please come up to

22 the podium, identify yourself, put your, what street you

23 want to testify with regard to, and we will go from
24 there. So, without further ado, Abbey Drive, Abbot
25 Street, Abbott Run Valley Road, south of Route 95, north

10

1 of Route 95, Abbott Valley View Drive, Abigail Road,
2 Aborn Avenue, Academy Drive, Acorn Street, Adams
Street,
3 Alan Avenue, Alaska Street, Albion Road, Alton Avenue,
4 Amanda Drive, America Street, Ames Street, Amherst
5 Street, Angell Road, Angus Drive, Ann & Hope Way, Ann
6 Streets, up to one, from number 1-160, and Ann Street,
7 61-300, Anna Avenue, Anna Mac Drive, Anthony Drive,

Anvil

8 Drive, Apache Lane, Apple Blossom Drive, Apple Ridge

9 Drive, Arbor Street, Arch Road, Arnold Drive, Arnold

10 Mills Road, Art Street, Ash Street, Ashton Parkway,

**11 Ashton Woods, Aurora Drive, Austin Drive, Autumn
Circle,**

12 Avalon Road, Avon Avenue.

13 Is there anyone who wishes to offer any testimony on

14 any one of those streets on dealing with the elementary

15 recommended placement by the Space Utilization Task

16 Force?

17 (OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION)

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we hear that

19 discussion?

20 MR. ROTELLA: Yes, you may. Mr. Costa asked

21 if there were any changes recommended by the
committee

22 dealing with the elementary schools for any of the A

23 students, and the answer is, no.

24 MR. COSTA: Wait a minute. Mr. Gibbons.

25 MR. GIBBONS: Perhaps instead of reading

11

1 through every street we can just go over the streets that

2 we actually made the changes on, as far as.

3 MR. COSTA: That's why I asked Mr. Rotella

4 if there were any --

5 **MR. ROTELLA:** Mr. Gibbons, one of the

6 reasons why we want to make sure that we don't just
cover

7 the streets that we're offering as a change, we have that

8 list, we want to make sure that if anybody who has any

9 issue with any of the streets that are part of this study

10 have an opportunity to speak, and that's why we would

11 like to take them alphabetically, A through Z, and I

12 appreciate what you're saying, but I don't want to be in

13 a situation where we are cutting anyone off from having

14 an opportunity to speak on any street within the

15 elementary directory.

16 **MR. GIBBONS:** We have only got two and a

17 half hours, so we'll be spending a lot of time on this.

18 MR. ROTELLA: Right now we are, I don't see

19 anybody coming up on As, so we're going to start with
the

20 Bs. Second call, anyone interested in speaking on any
of

21 the A streets? Thank you. The B streets, Bachand,

22 B-A-C-H-A-N-D, Drive, Baldwin Street, Ballou Street,

23 Barberry Hill Road, Barn Drive, Barrett Street,

24 B-A-R-R-E-T-T, Street, Barway Lane, Bay Avenue,
Bayberry

25 Hill Drive, Beach Road, Beachwood Drive, Beacon Lane,

- 1 **Beamis Avenue, Bear Hill Road, 1-120, going to Ashton,**
- 2 **Bear Hill Road, Community 121 and higher, Beauregard**
- 3 **Avenue, Beausoleil Street, Belec Street, Bell Street,**
- 4 **Bellevue Street, Bells Court, Belmont Terrace, Bill**
- 5 **Street, Billington Circle, Biltmore Avenue, Birch Hill**
- 6 **Drive, Birch Road, Birchwood Drive, Bishop Drive,**
- 7 **Blacksmith Drive, Blackstone Street, Blanche Avenue,**
- 8 **Blissdale Road, Blossom Court, Boardman Avenue, Bond**
- 9 **Avenue, Bonnie Brook Court, Bound Road, B-O-U-N-D,**
- 10 **Street, Boxwood Street, Boyle Avenue, Bradford Street,**
- 11 **Brailey Street, Branch Avenue, Brayton Court, Briarwood**
- 12 **Drive, Bear Hill Road is referenced again, and it is also**
- 13 **called Jenna, J-E-N-N-A.**

Bowen

14 **MS. MORELLE: No, Briar Hill Road.**

15 **MR. ROTELLA: I'm sorry, Briar, B-R-I-A-R**

16 **Hill, Brill Street, Britts Ridge, Broad Street, from**

17 **1-550. B.F. Norton, Broad Street from 551-700. Garvin,**

18 **Broadview Avenue, Brook Street, Brookdale Road,**

19 **Brookglade Road, Brookwood Lane, Bruce Drive, Bryant**

20 **Street from 1-250 B.F. Norton from 251 up Garvin,**

21 **Buckboard Drive, Buena Vista Drive, Burnt Swamp Road,**

and

22 **one road that we determined was not on this list**

23 **identified as Britts Road, and we have been told that it**

24 **might be Britts Ridge Road, which we have already**

25 **identified, but we wanted to put that in there also.**

1 It's our understanding that the committee had
recommended

2 changes dealing with Bear Hill Road and Bound,
B-O-U-N-D,

3 Road. Anybody interested in testifying on any of the B

4 streets? Second calling, anybody interested in

5 testifying on any of the B streets?

6 MS. LANGTON: This is only for elementary

7 schools.

8 MR. ROTELLA: Only for elementary schools at

9 this point in time.

10 MR. COSTA: We're only on elementary. For

11 the stenographer, Mrs. Beauleiu just arrived, okay. We
12 are going onto Cs.

13 MR. ROTELLA: Cs. Cabot Street, Cadoret

14 Drive, Camelot Court, Camp Street, Candida Court,
Canning

15 Street, Canterbury Avenue, Cargill Road, Carl Street,

16 Carlson Drive, Carnation Street, Carol Drive, Caroline

17 Drive, Carpenter Lane, Carpenter Street, Castine,

18 C-A-S-T-I-N-E, Street, Castlegate Road, Cathedral Court,

19 Cedar Way, Chambers Street, Chapel Street, Chase
Street,

20 Chepachet Avenue, Cherokee Avenue, Cherry Road,
Chestnut

21 Grove Avenue, Chestnut Street, Chimney Hill Drive,

- 22 Chimney Point, Christine Street, Chu Kaing Drive, C-H-U,
- 23 capital K-A-I-N-G, Drive, Chunga Drive, C-H-U-N-G-A,
- 24 Church Street, Cider, C-I-D-E-R, Court, Circledale Drive,
- 25 Circuit Drive, Citizen Street, Clairmont Street, Clara

14

- 1 Lane, Clark Street, Club Drive, Cobblestone Street,
- 2 Colonial Avenue, Columbia Drive, Columbus Street,
Colwell
- 3 Drive, Comet Drive, Conway Lane, Cook Road, Cooper
Lane,
- 4 Corcoran Drive, Country Hill Road, Countryside Drive,
- 5 Cozy Lane, Crawford Row, Cray Street, Crepeau
Boulevard,

6 Crescent Road, Crestwood Court, Crocus Street, Cross

7 Road, Crossing Drive, Crowell, C-R-O-W-E-L-L, Street,

8 Cumberland Street, Curran Brook Court, Curran Road,
1-156

9 B.F. Norton, 157 and up Garvin, Curtin Drive, and
Cushing

10 Street. The Space Utilization Committee, I believe, was

11 recommending a change on Crestwood Court. That
would be

12 from Community to Ashton, and that's the only letter or

13 only street in the Cs that there was a recommendation.

14 Is there anybody who is interested in speaking on that?

15 MS. CHAMPAGNE: Hi. Thank you. I have

16 actually never done this before. My name is Majsan

17 Champagne. I live on Crestwood Court. My son, Isaac,

is

18 in the second grade. He's actually one of three

19 elementary school students who do live on Crestwood

20 Court. There are two in the Rossignoli family, one in

21 third grade, and one in kindergarten, and my main
concern

22 that Crestwood Court, if you look at the map, is right on

23 the edge of Ashton. The streets further up towards

24 Diamond Hill are already in Ashton School, and the

25 streets right further down towards Abbott Run Valley
Road

1 are staying in Community School, and my main concern

was

2 the fact that there are only three children on that

3 street, and I honestly didn't know the exact number of

4 children who were being moved out of Community
School

5 because I saw that the main amount of kids were actually

6 being moved into Community School. That was my only
main

7 concern. I'm sorry if I have not done this the correct

8 way.

9 MR. ROTELLA: You have done it fine. What I

10 would suggest making sure is that the sign-in sheet, that

11 you have your name, address, and the street you wanted
to

12 speak on.

13 **MS. CHAMPAGNE:** Thank you.

14 **MR. ROTELLA:** Thank you.

15 **(OFF THE RECORD DISCUSSION)**

16 **MR. ROTELLA:** I believe the thrust of your

17 **statements are that there are only three kids that are**

18 **being affected by this change.**

19 **MS. CHAMPAGNE:** Correct, and my main

20 **question was out of the four streets that are being**
moved

21 **out of Community School, what is the total amount of**

22 **children? I know that there are two homes on Old**
Diamond

23 **Hill Road that are being moved out. There are several**

24 **streets, there are several homes on the other two**

25 streets, but those other streets are firmly entrenched in

16

1 the school district that they're being moved into, and
2 Crestwood is right on the edge. So that was my main
3 concern. I don't really have a point, I mean, I wouldn't
4 like him to move. I enjoy where he's going. He enjoys
5 his friends, and I won't make a stink about him moving if
6 it is better for the community, but my question is, is it
7 something that is absolutely, positively necessary.

8 MR. COSTA: We are talking about just three
9 students.

10 MS. CHAMPAGNE: There is only three kids.

11 MR. COSTA: On that Crestwood Court?

12 MS. CHAMPAGNE: Yes, correct.

13 MR. COSTA: And currently they are --

14 MS. CHAMPAGNE: In Community School, Ashton

15 kindergarten, second grade, my son, and third grade.

16 MR. COSTA: Thank you.

17 MS. CHAMPAGNE: Thank you.

18 MR. COSTA: Mr. Gibbons.

19 MR. GIBBONS: I think it might help if when

20 questions like this come up we just explain what the

21 committee's thought was.

22 MR. COSTA: That's fine.

23 **MR. GIBBONS: The reason why we looked at**
24 **this, when we looked at the surrounding streets, and I'm**
25 **talking about streets literally in the Crestwood Court**

17

1 **neighborhood on either side and to the back of them,**
2 **they're all going to Ashton, and Crestwood Court kind of**
3 **stuck out. Our question was why aren't they currently**
4 **going to Ashton, because around them, immediately**
around
5 **them, they were going to the Ashton School. So we just,**
6 **the busses were already going in there to go to Ashton.**
7 **We just thought it made sense. We didn't do it for a**

8 numbers reason, we just really wanted to go in and clean
9 up so the area was consistent. It really wasn't done to
10 help any number causes.

11 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Costa.

12 MR. COSTA: Dr. Morelle.

13 DR. MORELLE: The star on that map is
14 Crestwood Court. You also have --

15 MR. COSTA: That's a wraparound street.

16 DR. MORELLE: You also have that map in
17 front of you.

18 MR. COSTA: Yeah, right.

19 DR. MORELLE: And on either side of it you
20 have Standring Street. Across the street you have

21 Alaska, and on the other side of it you have Shirley

22 Drive, and the recommendation is for 2-131 Crestwood

23 Court to be moved. It's the entire street.

24 MR. GIBBONS: The entire street.

25 MR. COSTA: It's the entire street.

18

1 DR. MORELLE: Correct.

2 MR. COSTA: But it's only three students

3 that are affected.

4 DR. MORELLE: I will verify that for the

5 next meeting.

6 MR. GIBBONS: Currently.

7 **DR. MORELLE:** But all the homes on it, I
8 will verify the number of dwellings on the street.

9 **MR. COSTA:** But there is quite a few because
10 I know the street that wraps around. That's why it's
11 kind of confusing. I'm not so sure, let's say if it runs
12 off Bear Hill going into Crestwood Court, where Joe
13 Rossignoli lives, he's around like a turn, so I have got
14 to know how many kids are on that. Go ahead.

15 **DR. MORELLE:** One of the things on the
16 evening when I was at the Space Utilization Task Force
17 that we cautioned the task force to do was not to create
18 a situation where they were just looking at September
19 2008, and if they focused on student enrollment they

20 might end up trying to create a situation where they were
21 trying to fix the district for September 2008, and in
22 fact, what we really were asking them to do was put a
23 system in place that would allow students to enroll into
24 all of the schools at the elementary and middle school
25 for at least the next five years until the school

19

1 committee reviewed the school assignments or street
2 assignments for the schools again. So, I think you
3 actually want to look at two issues, one is the number of
4 dwellings on the street that could be affected, and then,

5 secondarily, the students that are affected.

6 **MR. COSTA:** If you can come back with that
7 information for us by tomorrow.

8 **DR. MORELLE:** We will.

9 **MR. COSTA:** Let's continue on with the Ds,
10 Mr. Rotella.

11 **MR. ROTELLA:** On Ds, Dade Road, Dale Street,
12 Daniel Street, David Street, Davis Street, Day Road,
13 again, apparently, Deborah Street, Deerbrook Way,

14 Deerfield Road, Delaware Avenue, Dennis Street,
Desmarais

15 Street, DeSoto Street, Dexter Street, Diamond Hill Road,

16 1751-2350 at Ashton, Diamond Hill Road 2351-4500 at

17 Community, Diamond Hill Road 1301-1750 at Garvin,

Dixon

18 Street, Doire Road, D-O-I-R-E, Road, Donald Avenue,
Dorr

19 Street, D-O-R-R, Douglas Drive, Draco Drive, Drummond

20 Street, Duchess Road, Duke Road, Dulles Street, and

21 Dwight, D-W-I-G-H-T, Street. The recommendation of the

22 subcommittee was that Deerbrook Way be a change, and
that

23 was going from Cumberland Hill to Community. Is there

24 anybody interested in any of the D streets, please?

25 MR. COSTA: So the only change, Mr. Rotella,

20

1 is Deerbrook Way from Cumberland Hill to Community.

2 MR. ROTELLA: Correct.

3 MR. COSTA: Anybody in the audience wish to

4 speak on the Ds? Nobody. Continue, Mr. Rotella.

5 MR. ROTELLA: Thank you. Eagle Drive, East

6 Barrows Street, East Earle Street, East Street, Eastgate

7 Road, Eaton Street, Eddy Street, Edgemont Avenue,

8 Edgewood Avenue, Edison Road, Edith Street,
Eisenhower

9 Street, Elder Ballou Meeting House, Eleanor Drive, Eli

10 Street, Elizabeth Street, Elk, E-L-K, Street, Ellery

11 Street, Elm Street, Elmwood Drive, Emmett Lane, Empire

12 Street, England Street, from 1-250 B.F. Norton from 250

13 up Garvin, Esek Hopkins Lane, Ethier Way, Etta Way,
Evans

14 Street, Evergreen Street. The changes recommended by
the
15 committee were on Eagle Drive and Elder Ballou Meeting
16 House Road, from Eagle Drive from Cumberland Hill to
17 Community, from Elder Ballou Meeting House Road
changed
18 from Cumberland Hill also to Community.

19 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Rotella, England Street is
20 251 and up.

21 MR. ROTELLA: That's what I said.

22 DR. MORELLE: You said 250.

23 MR. ROTELLA: I'm sorry, 251 and up on
24 England Street.

25 MR. COSTA: Anybody from the audience wish

1 to speak on the Es? Hearing none, continue.

2 MR. ROTELLA: Thank you. Factory Street,

3 Fairhaven Road, Fairview Avenue, Fairway Drive, Falstaff

4 Drive, Farm Drive, Farmview Drive, Farrell Street, Fatima

5 Drive, Fenner Grant Lane, Ferncrest Drive, Fieldside

6 Drive, First Street or Avenue, First Avenue, Fisher Road,

7 Fiske Avenue, Flat Street, Follett, F-O-L-L-E-T-T,

8 Street, Ford Avenue, Forest Avenue, Forestdale Drive,

9 Forestview Drive, Fountain Street, Francis Street,

10 Franklin Street, Frederick Lane, Friars Green, Front

11 Street. One street that was left off that we found in
12 the directory was Fogarty Street. That was left off the
13 Space Utilization Task Force list. I believe it might be
14 a new street.

15 MR. BARLOW: Where is it? Where is it?
16 Where is the street?

17 MR. COSTA: Fogarty Street? Anybody know
18 where Fogarty Street is?

19 MS. MACBETH: Cumberland Hill district.

20 MR. ROTELLA: It's in the Cumberland Hill
21 district.

22 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella?

23 MR. ROTELLA: There are no changes in the

- 10 **G-A-D-O-U-R-Y, Drive, Garden Street, Garnet Street,**
- 11 **Garvin Street, Gaskin Lane, G-A-S-K-I-N, Gaskin Lane,**
- 12 **Geddes Farm Road, Geldard Street, George Street,**
- 13 **Georgianna Drive, Gilbert Court, Gerard Road, Gladding**
- 14 **Drive, Glen Ellen Drive, Glen Oaks Drive, Glenside Drive,**
- 15 **Glenwood Drive, Goddard Street, Gold Star Drive, Gould**
- 16 **Street, Governor Street, Grand Avenue, Grandview**
Street,
- 17 **Grant Lane, Grants Mill Road, Great Woods, Green Acre**
- 18 **Road, Green Meadow Lane, Green Street, Greenfield**
Road,
- 19 **Greenhalgh, G-R-E-E-N-H-A-L-G-H, Avenue, Greenview**
- 20 **Street, Grove Road, Grundy Way.**

21 **MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella?**

22 **MR. ROTELLA: Gold Star Drive was a new**
23 **street. They're recommended to go to Community.**

24 **MR. COSTA: Which is not on the list, right?**

25 **MR. ROTELLA: It is on the list, actually.**

23

1 **MR. COSTA: Gold Street?**

2 **MR. ROTELLA: It's not on the list that you**
3 **have. It's on the Space Utilization list.**

4 **MR. COSTA: Gold Star Drive going to**
5 **Community. Any anybody wish to speak on the Gs?**

Hearing

6 **none, continue, Mr. Rotella.**

7 **MR. ROTELLA: Thank you. Hadde Avenue, Hale**

8 **Avenue, Halmar Drive, Hamilton Street, Hannah Drive,**

9 **Harding Street, Hardwicke Street, Harriet Lane, Harrison**

10 **Street, Hatch Street, Havens, H-A-V-E-N-S, Street,**
Hayden

11 **Court, Hayes Drive, Hayfield Lane, Hazebrouck Street,**

12 **Hector Avenue, Hemlock Street, Hereford Drive, Heritage**

13 **Drive, Heroux Boulevard, Hewes Street, Hickory Road,**

14 **Hidden Meadow Lane, High Street, 1-556 B.F. Norton, 557**

15 **and up Garvin, Highland Avenue to the split, B.F. Norton**

16 **odd numbers, Garvin even numbers, Highland View**
Road,

17 **Highridge Drive, Hilary Avenue, Hill Road, Hiller Road,**

18 **Hillside Road, Hilltop Road, Hines Farm Road, Hines**

Road,

19 south of Oakridge, 1-184 Garvin, north of Oakledge Road

**20 Community, 185 and up, Holden Street, Holly Lane,
Home**

**21 Avenue, Homer Court, Homestead Avenue, Honeywell
Lane,**

**22 Hope Street, Hopkins Terrace, Houtman Avenue, Howe
Road,**

**23 Howe, H-O-W-E, I'm sorry, Howard Road, and Howe
Street,**

24 Hunt Street, Hunter Drive.

25 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella, on the

24

1 Hs?

2 **MR. ROTELLA:** Hines Road on the, I believe
3 the recommendation is Garvin.

4 **MR. GIBBONS:** I don't believe there are any
5 changes to Garvin.

6 **MR. ROTELLA:** We listed it as a split.
7 There is one street that was left out and that was
8 Harvest Drive.

9 **MR. COSTA:** Harvest.

10 **MR. ROTELLA:** Harvest, H-A-R-V-E-S-T. My
11 information, that should go to the Garvin district.

12 **MR. COSTA:** Quick question, John. Hines
13 Road, which is a straight and narrow, we couldn't

14 designate numbers, like that the beginning of Hines

15 goes to Garvin, which I'm assuming it goes to Garvin.

16 DR. MORELLE: 1-184 Garvin.

17 MR. COSTA: All right. Okay.

18 MR. GIBBONS: One to 184 to Garvin, and 185

19 and up to Community.

20 MR. COSTA: Anybody wish to speak on the Hs?

21 Mr. Kelly.

22 MR. KELLY: While I appreciate the practice

23 you're using, I do live on Hayfield Lane, I appreciate

24 the process you're going through, but I would just offer

25 and just echo what Mr. Gibbons said. People here know

1 what street they live on. To expedite the process, if

2 they're here to speak on elementary if you want to go
now

3 to the I's if anybody lives on an I Street have them come

4 up and speak. We are wasting a lot of time.

5 (APPLAUSE)

6 MR. GIBBONS: I agree with him, so.

7 MR. COSTA: I know, John.

8 MS. LANGTON: If you're allowing people to

9 enter written testimony into the record, why can't you

10 take the street list and say this is written testimony

11 being entered into the record and then ask anybody who

12 has an I you will get your street list for written

13 testimony. There are a lot of people who are here to

14 speak about middle schools. We have children that need

15 to go home and go to bed, but we're here for an
important

16 reason. Can I have a show of hands on how many that
are

17 here for middle schools? Most of your audience, I don't

18 mean to be a pain.

19 MR. COSTA: I know it is a long and tedious

20 process but perhaps, Joe, we can speed it up a little.

21 DR. MORELLE: Speed the process.

22 MR. COSTA: We want to list all of the

23 individual streets. I know it is tedious but --

24

MR. ROTELLA: If you want, I will go

25

through, you know, I will not read every street. On the

26

1

I street, is there anybody interested in speaking about

2

the I streets, how about that?

3

(APPLAUSE)

4

MR. ROTELLA: We'll go like that.

5

MR. COSTA: Let's do it that way, and just

6

give us, Mr. Rotella, if, indeed, there is a street like

7

Harvest Drive in the Hs, if they're missing, and if there

8

is any changes that we need to know but, yeah, to speed

9

up the process a little bit. I'm sure people know where

10 they live.

11 MR. ROTELLA: That's fine. The only problem
12 is I want to make sure everybody has an opportunity.

13 MR. COSTA: Everybody is going to have an
14 opportunity.

15 MR. ROTELLA: I want to make sure that
16 everybody has an opportunity to speak.

17 MS. LANGTON: That's fine. We understand
18 that.

19 MR. ROTELLA: J streets. We are on I's.

20 MR. COSTA: We are on I's.

21 MR. ROTELLA: I believe there is no one.

22 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella?

23 **MR. ROTELLA: None on the I's that I know**

24 **of.**

25 **MR. COSTA: Js.**

27

1 **MR. ROTELLA: Anybody on the J streets?**

2 **MR. COSTA: Any changes?**

3 **MR. ROTELLA: There is one change**

4 **recommended and that's Jencks Road, J-E-N-C-K-S,**
Road.

5 **MR. COSTA: Right.**

6 **MR. ROTELLA: That is from Cumberland Hill**

7 **to Community. In addition to that, there were two**

8 streets, apparently, that were not identified. One was
9 Julie Drive, and the other one was referred to as Jenna
10 Drive, which is part of, as I understand it, Briar Hill
11 Road.

12 MR. WOOD: It's on the top of Page 11.

13 MR. ROTELLA: Julie Drive would be

14 recommended as being in the Garvin area, and Jenna
would

15 be in the Community area. Anybody on Js?

16 MR. COSTA: Ks.

17 MR. ROTELLA: Ks, anyone interested in Ks?

18 MR. COSTA: Any changes?

19 MR. ROTELLA: There was one street which we

20 found which was Kathryn Street, K-A-T-H-R-Y-N, and that
21 would be in the B.F. Norton area.

22 MR. COSTA: Ls, anyone interested in the L
23 streets for elementary? Any changes, Mr. Rotella?

24 MR. ROTELLA: No changes that I see. Is
25 anybody interested in the M streets? The Ms, there was

28

1 one street that was not in the listing, that's Maurice
2 Street. That would be in the Cumberland Hill area.

3 There was a change on Meehan, M-E-E-H-A-N, Lane from
4 Cumberland Hill to Community.

5 MR. COSTA: Anybody on the Ms? Okay, Joe,

6 continue.

7 MR. ROTELLA: Anybody interested in the N

8 streets?

9 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella?

10 MR. ROTELLA: Nate Whipple Highway, I

11 believe from 90 on up the suggestion is go to
Community.

12 MR. COSTA: Anyone interested in speaking on

13 that.

14 MR. ROTELLA: Os, anybody interested in the

15 O streets?

16 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Mr. Rotella?

17 MR. ROTELLA: My understanding is Old

18 Diamond Hill Road from Community to Ashton is the

19 recommended change, and there was a street by the
name of

20 Old Reservoir Road which would be in the Community
area.

21 That was not on the list.

22 MR. COSTA: Anybody interested in speaking

23 on any of those?

24 MR. ROTELLA: P, on any of these streets

25 beginning with P, the recommendation from the Space --

29

1 Mrs. Bela.

2 MR. COSTA: I'm sorry, Mrs. Bela.

3 MS. BELA: That's all right. My name is

4 Carol Bela, and I live at 75 Pound Road, and I believe

5 that is going to be switched to Community.

6 MR. ROTELLA: Take it right out of the stand

7 and hold it if would you like. How about that?

8 MS. BELA: Is that better?

9 MR. ROTELLA: Yeah.

10 MS. BELA: I live at 75 Pound Road. My son

11 right now is a Cumberland Hill kindergartner at

12 Community, and the recommendation is that he remain

at

13 Community for first grade. I honestly don't have a

14 problem which school he goes to. I just want to be

15 reassured that another year or two down the road you're
16 not going to turn around and tell me he has to go to
17 another school. I feel that all the schools are fine,

18 and I'm comfortable with wherever you send him,
provided

19 that wherever you send him now he stays wherever he's
20 going. My other suggestion, if it's possible, any of the
21 Cumberland Hill kindergartners that are going to first
22 grade at Community if there is any consideration given
23 that at least a couple of Cumberland Hill students can be
24 together, so they at least have a familiar face when they
25 start first grade. That's basically all I have to say.

1 **Thank you, and thank you to the committee for doing**
such

2 **a good job.**

3 **MR. GIBBONS: It should be a five-year plan,**
4 **at least.**

5 **MR. ROTELLA: Mrs. Bela, make sure you sign**
6 **in.**

7 **MS. BELA: All set. Thank you.**

8 **MR. COSTA: Any other changes, Joe?**

9 **MR. ROTELLA: Yes, Paine Road was a**
10 **suggested change from Ashton to Community. Pine**
Road, a

11 **suggested change was from Community to Ashton. Pine**

12 Swamp Road, a partial change from Cumberland Hill to

13 Community. Pound Road above from 46 on are plus
numbers

14 to Community, and 1-45 to Cumberland Hill, and one is
on

15 a new street, Primrose, which would be in the Ashton

16 section. There was one street that we found also that

17 was not listed, which was Pleasant View Avenue. It's not

18 located on the map, however, it is listed in the 9-1-1

19 listing. There are no students listed, in fact, I

20 believe there are no houses on that street.

21 MS. MACBETH: What was the change for Paine

22 Road? Where were you saying they were originally
going

23 to?

24 **MR. COSTA:** I have got a question on that,
25 **Joe.**

31

1 **MR. ROTELLA:** My understanding was they were
2 **partially going to, some of them were going to Ashton,**
3 **and the recommendation is they all go to Community.**

4 **MR. COSTA:** All right. That's what I was
5 **going to ask.**

6 **MS. MACBETH:** This is the Paine Road over
7 **the Massachusetts state line.**

8 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** That was a mistake.

9 It said Ashton, but Paine Road is obviously Community.

10 That was a mistake.

11 MS. MACBETH: It was always Community.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, that was a

13 mistake.

14 MR. ROTELLA: I'm only reading from the

15 recommendation.

16 MR. COSTA: So, there is no change. It's

17 going to stay Community.

18 MR. ROTELLA: Yep.

19 MR. COSTA: Okay. Anybody else on Ps? No.

20 Continue, Joe.

21 MR. ROTELLA: Rs.

22 MR. COSTA: We got Q.

23 MR. ROTELLA: I'm sorry, Q. I'm sorry about

24 that.

25 MR. COSTA: Any changes, Joe?

32

1 MR. ROTELLA: Nope.

2 MR. COSTA: Anybody wish to speak on Qs?

3 Hearing none, Joe, continue.

4 MR. ROTELLA: Rs, and on the Rs we found a

5 street called Rustic Drive in the Community area.

6 MR. COSTA: No other changes? Anybody

7 wishing to speak on the Rs?

8 **MR. ROTELLA:** Mr. Costa, I need to go back
9 to the Ps for one minute. There is also a Pristine Lane
10 that was not on the listing from the task force.

11 **MR. COSTA:** Pristine Lane.

12 **MR. ROTELLA:** P-R-I-S-T-I-N-E, Lane, and
13 that would be in the Community area.

14 **MR. COSTA:** Okay. Under the Rs,
15 Mr. Rotella.

16 **MR. ROTELLA:** Just Rustic.

17 **MR. COSTA:** Just Rustic, go on to the Ss.

18 **MR. ROTELLA:** Ss, anybody interested in the

19 Ss? The Ss changes, I believe, took place on Sneeceh

Pond

20 Road, Sojka, S-O-J-K-A, Drive, Southbury Road, Staples
21 Road, and in addition to that we found two other streets
22 that were on the 9-1-1 directory that were not on our
23 listing, Sierra Court, and Sumner, S-U-M-N-E-R, Street.

24 Sierra Court would be the Community area. Sumner
Street

25 would be in the Cumberland Hill area.

33

1 DR. MORELLE: Mr. Rotella, one other,

2 Stephen's Way.

3 MR. ROTELLA: We made a note on Stephen's

4 Way. It should be looked at because there seems to be it

5 should be in the Community area, but it's listed as

6 Cumberland Hill.

7 MS. BEAULEIU: Mr. Rotella.

8 MR. ROTELLA: Yes.

9 MS. BEAULEIU: Southbury Road and Staples

10 Road, were they both Cumberland Hill schools
originally?

11 MR. ROTELLA: My understanding was that

12 Southbury Road was Cumberland Hill and would be

13 recommended for Community. Staples Road, there was
a

14 split. Some of the students were going to Cumberland

15 Hill, and it is recommended all schools go to
Community.

16 MS. BEAULEIU: Thank you.

17 **MR. COSTA: Anybody under the Ss? Hearing**

18 **none, continue under the Ts.**

19 **MR. ROTELLA: The recommendation of the**

20 **committee is that on Tower Hill Road there be a change**

21 **that, I believe it's numbers 151 and up go to Cumberland**

22 **Hill.**

23 **MR. COSTA: That's there now.**

24 **MR. ROTELLA: We identified that as a**

25 **change.**

1 **MR. COSTA: Okay. Any other changes under**

2 T, Mr. Rotella?

3 MR. ROTELLA: No.

4 MR. COSTA: Okay. Anybody wishing to speak
5 on the Ts? Hearing none, continue.

6 MR. ROTELLA: One street with a U, no change
7 recommended. Vs, there is one street that was not
8 listed, Victoria Court, and it is not on the map, and as
9 we understand there are no students listed for this
10 street.

11 MR. COSTA: Is that all the changes under V?

12 MR. ROTELLA: That's it.

13 MR. COSTA: Anybody wishing to speak on the
14 Vs? Continue, Mr. Rotella.

15 **MR. ROTELLA: Go to the Ws, and there were**

16 **two changes in the Ws, Windsong Road and West**
Wrentham

17 **Road. Windsong was originally at Cumberland Hill and**
now

18 **it goes to Community or would go to Community, and**
West

19 **Wrentham Road, south of Elder Ballou Meeting Road,**

20 **Cumberland Hill, north of Elder Ballou Meeting Road,**

21 **Community, numbers are 1-219 for Cumberland Hill, and**
220

22 **and above for Community.**

23 **MS. BEAULEIU: Mr. Rotella?**

24 **MR. ROTELLA: Yes.**

25 **MS. BEAULEIU: Do we know where they were**

1 assigned to previously? Is it exclusively Cumberland

2 Hill?

3 DR. MORELLE: Windsong Road is Cumberland

4 Hill.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Both those schools

6 must have been Cumberland Hill. Both those changes
were

7 Cumberland Hill and Community.

8 MS. TOWNEND: I'd like to comment on that.

9 I live on Windsong Road. I'm Claudia Townend, and I live

10 on Windsong Road. If you're on Windsong the

11 kindergartners went to Community, and the first graders
12 and up went to Cumberland Hill. That was last year, and
13 we didn't really have this process to comment on it. It
14 was just kind of announced that this, you know, these
15 children would have to go, families would have to split.
16 So, I think I just wanted to comment on that, in that
17 that would answer your question. It is Cumberland Hill
18 and Community for Windsong. I guess, I'm just here, I

19 know that there are other people who have more
pressing

20 issues, but I just want to say that I'm sure that the
21 committee is very sensitive to the fact how difficult it
22 is for children and parents who have established
23 relationships at schools with energy, and PTO, and

24 children meeting new friends, how difficult it is for
25 them to switch, and for some children, in particular, it

36

1 is going to be especially difficult. I would like some
2 reassurance and to express that I think that we need to
3 know that our children are going to stay, that my
4 daughter, who's going into third grade or fourth grade,
5 it doesn't really matter about my kid, but that they're
6 not going to be switched around again in three years
7 because another condo is being built in town, and, you
8 know, this is like stock-back solution, we'll ship them

9 here, we'll put them here, we'll move them here, we'll

10 move them here, and the big issue is the schools are too

11 small. We need more room, and you guys are going to
have

12 to start spending money better because we're going to

13 have to accommodate the growing population of this
town,

14 and it's just really, really difficult for, you know,

15 we're the ones who have to fix the problem. We are the

16 ones who have to change.

17 You know, the quality of the school is really

18 important. I'm happy my daughter is going to
Cumberland.

19 I think my neighbors are, too. Whether their children

20 have been families who had kindergartners and going to

21 third grade, they had to drive across town, get their
22 kids in the afternoon kindergarten and then go pick up
23 their kids and be ready at the bus for the kids at
24 Cumberland Hill School. I have been very happy at
25 Cumberland Hill School. It's going to be very difficult

37

1 to make new friends, and my daughter is going to, I will
2 do it, but, you know, I don't want to find out in five
3 years that my kid is going to have to switch middle
4 schools, and, because you will find out, you will find
5 out that parents will not put their kids in that second

6 junior high. It's just, it's not going to happen.

7 They'll move. The quality is terrible and the reputation

8 is very poor. So that has to be addressed, but I am here

9 to speak about the elementary school. I'm happy, and I

10 think that, that the mothers that I have spoken to on

11 Windsong Road are happy that their children will be
going

12 to Community because at least now the families will be

13 united. Thank you.

14 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Anybody else on the

15 Ws? This concludes the elementary boundaries,

16 Mr. Rotella? Mrs. Beauleiu.

17 MRS. BEAULEIU: I have a question about

18 enrollment projections for the elementary schools, and

19 what was stated was that enrollment is going up. Is

20 enrollment going up over a five-year plan or is

21 enrollment going down, or should I withhold that
question

22 until later?

23 MR. COSTA: Why don't we hold those

24 questions until the 20th.

25 MRS. BEAULEIU: Just one request I have is

38

1 if we can have a summary of the street changes how it

2 initially was, and where it is now along the lines of

3 what we went through earlier, that would be appreciative.

4 **MR. GIBBONS:** The reason why we moved some
5 of the kids in the Cumberland Hill area to Community was
6 because we needed to create a few slots in grades, Paul,
7 correct me if I'm wrong, 1-4. We, literally, needed to
8 move about, maybe a total of 20 children, and by making
9 the adjustments that we were able to make we were able
10 to
11 make it so the classes are not over the limits, and there
12 is slight room for growth, but in the, you know, when we
13 look at all the elementary schools, they're all well over
14 the 85 percent number that everybody would like to see.
15 Most of them are over the 90 percent number. Some of
16 them are at the 95 percent number, so there really is not

16 a lot of room for error, but we did need to move, it's

17 approximately 20 students, or create some spaces so
that

18 those levels are not at an overcrowding status, and we

19 really didn't get much pushback from the parents in
those

20 changes. We'll see the big pushback when we get to

21 middle schools.

22 MR. COSTA: I'm sure we will. Mr. Gibbons.

23 MR. GIBBONS: Yes.

24 MR. COSTA: In your assumption, how many

25 students were affected in the elementary grade level,

1 approximately?

2 MR. GIBBONS: It's approximately 20. I

3 might be off by a couple of --

4 MR. COSTA: That's fine.

5 MR. GIBBONS: We did need to open up some

6 slots at Cumberland Hill, and there was still enough

7 spaces at Community where we would be able to do that.

8 MR. COSTA: That's fine. That's fine. It's

9 been requested that we take a five-minute break. Some

10 people have got to go get some water and go to the
boys'

11 room, so we'll take a five-minute break, and then we'll

12 continue on to the middle school. Okay? Five-minute

13 break.

14 (BREAK TAKEN)

15 MR. COSTA: Okay. We are going to resume

16 the meeting. Before we do that, during the recess I was

17 approached by a few people about the next meeting,
which

18 is scheduled for next Thursday, I believe, Joe.

19 MR. ROTELLA: Yes.

20 MR. COSTA: And being the holy man that I

21 am, it's Holy Week next week, so we'll have to get to

22 people because we have already advertised and made
some

23 communications, but in any event, if we need to have

24 another meeting, we will have another meeting.

25 Dr. Morelle, we can see, the meeting should go on as

40

1 scheduled, the 20th, but we'll give the opportunity to

2 the people if we have to have a scheduled, another

3 scheduled meeting we can always add one more on.

4 MS. MORELLE: I would just make a notation

5 to the committee. We sent out about 600 letters stating

6 that you would hold a meeting on March 20th. So, you

7 also publicized it in the newspaper and on a couple of

8 websites, so if you have a concern about the March 20th

9 date, you may want to think about holding the March
20th,

10 if you do not have a turnout I would suggest that you
add

11 a date, because I'm not sure that we could contact all of

12 the people that we gave that date to cancel it, and I

13 think it might be misleading to people who may, in fact,

14 choose to attend on March 20th. So, my suggestion
would

15 be that rather than cancel March 20th that you add an

16 additional date.

17 MR. COSTA: We can do that. We are not

18 going to put anybody off or not hear them, so we can

19 always add a date, Dr. Morelle. So, Mr. Gibbons, are you

20 going to present the middle school?

21 MR. GIBBONS: Well, I thought what the

22 attorney asked me to do is just to recap it, and I know
23 there is a lot of streets involved, and I'm sure this is
24 probably going to be the group that wants to speak the
25 most. We presented two plans, a Plan A and Plan B, and

41

1 Plan A, basically what Plan A was is that we cleaned up
2 the areas along Mendon Road, which predominantly are
from
3 the Cumberland House of Pizza area of Mendon Road
down to
4 the 295 entrance along Mendon Road on both sides of
the
5 street, and what happens with the recommendations that
we

6 have made there is that the following streets would have
7 their children going to North Cumberland Middle School,
8 and I believe, I know I spoke with Earl prior to the
9 meeting, I think some of these kids right now are mixed.

10 Some are going to North Cumberland, some are going to
11 McCourt. So what we have recommended is that on the
12 following streets, and there are 16, Mendon Road, north

13 of Route 295 numbers 1791 and up, Rosetti Drive,
Anthony

14 Drive, Daniel Street, Menard Street, William Street,

15 Taylor Court, Crossing Drive, Meadowbrook Road,
Manor

16 Way, Chimney Hill Drive, Ventry Drive, Forestview Drive,

17 Tally Hill Road, Circledale Road, and Deerfield Road that

18 any children living on that street would be going to the
19 middle school, would be assigned to North Cumberland
20 Middle School. It's much closer to North Cumberland
21 Middle School than it is to McCourt, and for geographic
22 reasons it just makes a lot of sense that these children
23 would go to those schools. Now, if a Plan A was
adopted,
24 it really does not, does not correct the, what's looked
25 at as an overcrowding at North Cumberland Middle
School.

1 Actually, for the short term, for the next year or so it

2 would either slightly increase the population at North or
3 keep it right around a balanced, a balanced street, a
4 balanced number. Then what we did, and that plan was
5 actually passed, just so you know, because I know this
6 has come up in some of the earlier meetings,
unanimously,
7 by the school committee, I mean, by the school district
8 committee, and then also we submitted a Plan B. Plan B
9 would balance off the schools where you would not have,
10 you know, an overcrowding situation in North
Cumberland,
11 and would increase some of the numbers at McCourt.
Now,
12 by doing the Plan B it includes all of the streets that
13 we just mentioned in Plan A, and then the changes

would

14 be the following streets being assigned to McCourt
Middle

15 School that are currently going to North Cumberland,
Bear

16 Hill Road, Apple Ridge Drive, Autumn Circle, Cider
Court,

17 Draco Drive, Blossom Court, Abbott Run Valley Road
south

18 of 295 numbers 1-55, Cargill Road, Anvil Drive,

19 Blacksmith Drive, Buckboard Drive, Stagecoach Drive,
Ursa

20 Way, Waterman Farm Road, Oakledge Road, Prior Street,
The

21 Meadows, Silo Drive, Hines Road, Crestwood Drive and

22 Wyoming Drive. The committee also recommended that
the

23 school committee consider, we recommend that you do
24 grandfather grades six and seven that are currently at
25 their, the current middle schools that they're at. Now

43

1 with Plan B, it does balance off the system, you know,
2 where you actually would have some growth at both
3 schools. If we went with a Plan A you would still have
4 an overcrowding situation at North Cumberland Middle,
and
5 then still fair amount of space available at McCourt
6 Middle School, and I know people have different opinions
7 out here, so I think it would be good that everybody be

8 heard. That was the recommendation and that passed on

a

9 seven to two vote by our committee.

10 MR. COSTA: Mr. Gibbons, I don't believe the

11 committee, I know I don't have, we don't have those

12 sheets that you were referring to.

13 MR. GIBBONS: What we did, I'd be happy to

14 share this with you folks, but what we did was we
created

15 a middle school list for the entire town. There was no

16 street list for the middle schools. So you should have

17 your middle street list, actually the best list that we

18 have, which has a date on it of February 14, 2008 it

19 lists on every street, it lists what elementary school,

20 what middle school they would be going to, but I would
be

21 happy to share the changes that were actually made.

22 MR. COSTA: We would like to see the changes

23 that have been recommended by your committee so we
can

24 all have copies, instead of going through 50 sheets.

25 MR. GIBBONS: You have the changes.

44

1 MR. WOOD: Right here.

2 MR. GIBBONS: That's the same thing I gave

3 to you.

4 MR. COSTA: Okay. All right. I apologize.

5 MS. MORELLE: Mr. Rotella, if the plans that

6 are marked Plan A and Plan B, and they're posted on the

7 website, would you mention that so that the audience

8 knows it.

9 (UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS SPEAKING)

10 THE REPORTER: Are we on the record?

11 MR. COSTA: Mrs. McCarthy, just --

12 MR. GIBBONS: I will just clear that up. We

13 gave the school committee two recommendations. One
is a

14 Plan A, one is a Plan B. Plan A passed our committee

15 nine nothing. Plan B had a little more discussion, and

16 the final vote was seven to two. We had one committee

17 member that wasn't there that evening.

18 MR. COSTA: That's fine.

19 MR. GIBBONS: It's literally, out of all of

20 the votes that we made as a committee it was the only

21 vote that was not unanimous.

22 MR. COSTA: Right. I have some questions on

23 that, John, but I think I will wait until the 20th.

24 MR. GIBBONS: Don, I won't be here the 20th,

25 so you can ask them now if --

45

1 MR. COSTA: Mr. Wood.

2 **MR. WOOD: Mr. Chairman, I would like to**

3 **clarify something, and like I said, I spoke to**

4 **Mr. Gibbons on this issue earlier, the proposal that you**

5 **put in front of us does indicate the elementary children**

6 **that go to the Ashton school be recommended back to**
North

7 **Cumberland Middle School. They never left North**

8 **Cumberland Middle School. This was always their home,**

9 **North Middle School was always their home middle**
school.

10 **There was some confusion about a year ago, that has**
been

11 **changed and rectified and everybody should be back in**

12 **their current home school. If you remember, Mr. Costa,**

13 **you, and I believe Mr. Thibodeau sat on a committee**

14 almost ten years ago when you redistricted the
elementary

15 schools, and in the notes and minutes of those
meetings,

16 if you go back to look at them, it will say that they go

17 to Ashton for their elementary school career, and then

18 they go back to North Cumberland Middle School. So
these

19 children were never excluded or never supposed to be

20 going to McCourt Middle School. They were always in,

21 their home school's always been North Cumberland
Middle

22 School.

23 MR. GIBBONS: Earl, just so you know the way

24 we looked at it, and I think the way it was presented to

25 us is that, and I believe this would be the past policy

46

Hill

1 was that North Cumberland and, I'm sorry, Cumberland

2 and Community, those kids were always going into North

3 Cumberland, Garvin and B.F. Norton were always going

to

4 McCourt and Ashton was that swing school that I think

5 depending on the year went different directions, and

6 that's why we created an actual street list and

7 identified every street, and the middle school level an

8 actual street list did not exist, so, and we can talk

9 about the feeder school notes were from back in the
10 nineties but feeder schools never came up in our
11 discussion. We just went street by street. It ended up
12 being that all of B.F. Norton, all of Garvin, because of
13 geographic boundaries stayed at McCourt. All of

14 Cumberland Hill stayed at North, and then Community
and
15 Ashton, there were adjustments made because they kind
of
16 meet in the middle.

17 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman.

18 MR. COSTA: Mr. Rotella.

19 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Chairman, also the
20 information that Mr. Gibbons just gave is also listed on

21 the website, the Cumberland School Department
website.

22 All of that information was placed on the website, I
23 believe, shortly after it was submitted to the school
24 department.

25 MR. GIBBONS: I downloaded my copy tonight

47

1 before the meeting.

2 MR. COSTA: That's good, John. Are you all
3 set, Mr. Wood?

4 MR. WOOD: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

5 MR. ROTELLA: Ready.

6 MR. COSTA: We're ready.

7 MR. ROTELLA: We're going to use the same

8 format we used earlier, although I'm not going to read

9 every street again. We are going to start with the As as

10 far as the middle school recommendations, again, the
list

11 that is in the back of the foyer area is the list that

12 was the Space Utilization Task Force recommendation.
It

13 includes both middle school Plan A and middle school
Plan

14 B. So is there anybody interested in speaking on the As

15 as far as we are concerned with the middle school? Yes.

16 MS. FREIMAN: Good evening, committee

17 members, my name is Judy Freiman, and I live in Apple

18 Ridge Estates. My son Adam is a 6th grader at North
19 Cumberland Middle School. Tonight I would like to
20 address the issue of the emotional impact related to this
21 possible redistrict.

22 We moved to Cumberland three and a half years ago
23 from California, and it has taken my son that amount of
24 time to build relationships and feel secure within the
25 school system. Almost all of his friends are in this

48

1 school.

2 My son has already undergone the negative
experience

3 of being pulled out of a school, and I believe the impact
4 of Adam having to reestablish himself in yet another
5 school would be overwhelming and very disruptive in his
6 life.

7 Going into middle school is a huge adjustment for
8 any child, and to take them out of an environment they
9 are going to rely on can be devastating for any pre-teen.

10 These years are very difficult and impressionable,
11 and I'm sure many people here share my feelings of how
12 difficult of a transition this would be.

13 At this point there has been a lot of discussion
14 about the numbers and the geography, but I truly feel
15 that it would be a shame if you did not consider the

16 emotional well-being of each and every students this
17 would potentially affect. Thank you for your time.

18 (APPLAUSE)

19 MR. ROTELLA: Thank you. One of the things
20 I would suggest is that if there is anyone who wants to
21 present any written testimony that they should, after
22 they speak or before they speak, make it available to the
23 stenographer who is here, and she will be more than
happy
24 to make it part of this record.

25 MR. KESSLER: My name is Bill Kessler. This

1 is my wife, Donna.

2 MR. ROTELLA: Mr. Kessler, take it right

3 off.

4 MR. KESSLER: And my daughter, Serena. I

5 don't want to take too much time here because I know

6 there is a lot of people here who have a lot of things

7 that really need to be heard, but some of my feelings

8 were very similar to what Judy had to say. We moved
here

9 four years ago from Attleboro, and Serena, same thing, it

10 took her probably three or four years to establish new

11 friends, and just the whole process, everything that's

12 being looked at seems to all being done by, not by

13 emotions but just by street diameters and where people
14 live, and I think you're not really taking a look at the
15 kid's emotions and the whole process involved in this.

16 My daughter just wants to read something.

17 SERENA KESSLER: Hi, my name is Serena

18 Kessler. I live at 3 Autumn Circle. I want Plan A

19 because I want to stay with my friends. All of my

20 friends are going North. I would like to go to school

21 with them. There are only five girls that would be

22 attending, affected by moving to McCourt. I also attend

23 the YMCA after-school program at Community School. I

24 will not be able to go if I went to McCourt. I have many

25 friends there. Also, I met many good counselors at the Y

1 program, and I would not be able to attend their program

2 and see them. Please help me attend North Middle
School

3 with my friends.

4 (APPLAUSE)

5 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Do we have anybody

6 else in the As?

7 MR. ROTELLA: Anybody else interested in

8 speaking about the As?

9 MR. COSTA: Go on to B.

10 MR. ROTELLA: Anybody interested in speaking

11 on B, any street beginning with B?

12 MS. LANGTON: I'm cheating a little. I live

13 Oakledge Road, but I live in Bear Hill Estates, and I

14 have a son that needs to get home and go to bed, so I'm

15 being B for Bear Hill Estates. My name is Kathy
Langton.

16 I live on Oakledge Road, the neighborhood impacted by

17 middle school option B. I'm here tonight to ask you to

18 focus on the facts. The proposal that has been
presented

19 to you is based on the perception and assumption. Not

20 one concrete fact has been given to support the need for

21 option B. There is no factual data to support the fact

22 that North Cumberland Middle School is overcrowded.

23 There has been no analysis done to show what, if any
24 impact, there will be if option B is implemented, and I'm
25 very nervous, so please excuse me, I'm shaking. The

fact

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1 of the matter is that NCMS is not overcrowded. This data
2 supported by data found in the Torrado Report, which Dr.
3 Morelle was kind enough to provide to me which I believe
4 she provided to every member of the school committee.
5 The Torrado Report was a study commissioned by the
6 Cumberland School Department, and it outlines the
7 capacity of every school building in Cumberland. This

8 report shows that the capacity of NCMS is 967 students

9 with a target utilization rate of 85 percent which is a

10 capacity of 822. This year at NCMS there were 690

11 students enrolled. Next year that number could go up to

12 699 which is a 72 percent utilization rate, which is far

13 below the 85 percent target. Declining enrollments
which

14 were cited by this school committee for justification in

15 making budget cuts this year will see this enrollment

16 number drop in the coming years. By the time my son, a

17 current second grader gets to NCMS the enrollment as

18 presented by the Space Utilization Committee is
projected

19 to be 545, a 60 percent utilization rate, yet despite

20 these facts we are considering a plan that will disrupt

21 students for no apparent reason. If you implement
option

22 B my son will travel to middle school with eight children

23 out of a class of 82. While I would understand the need

24 if NCMS were, in fact, overcrowded I find this a

25 difficult concept to wrap my arms around when NCMS is

52

1 projected to be at 60 percent utilization rate when he

2 gets there.

3 I urge you to look at the options and make a

4 decision that is based on solid factual data, and I thank

5 you for your time and consideration. I have entered the
6 Torrado Report into the public record.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 MR. COSTA: Excuse me, sir, can you state
9 your name for the record.

10 MR. MCCARTHY: I think you know my name,
11 Mister. It is Sean McCarthy. I live at 11 Buckboard
12 Drive, and I have three children, and not only did
13 Ms. Langton bump me from the process she stole my
14 thunder. She did a very good job, and all kidding aside,
15 she just stated much more eloquently than I could have
16 some of the reasons that I'm here, and I just ask you

17 school committee members, and thank you for your
time, by

18 the way, and Dr. Morelle, for being here and giving us
19 the opportunity to take information that we're giving to
20 you and that's provided to you by the Utilization
21 Committee and digest it over the next week or whenever
22 the next meeting is and to keep an open mind.

23 Dr. Morelle stated earlier that primary in this,
24 when the Utilization Task Force was given this request
25 was the student enrollment projected out approximately

1 five years, and I think that's the most glaring element
2 that I saw when I digested this information. As you will

3 see when you look at it, it drops off and continues to
4 drop off over the next five years. Thank you.

5 MR. COSTA: Thank you, Mr. McCarthy.

6 MR. ROTELLA: We are still on the Bs.

7 MS. MCCARTHY: My name is Maureen McCarthy,

8 and I live on Buckboard Drive. My children currently go

9 to Community School. I have one in Community School,
and

10 my son Thomas is currently a sixth grader at North

11 Cumberland.

12 MR. COSTA: He is a sixth grader?

13 MS. MCCARTHY: Yes. We are one of the

14 streets that would be affected if Plan B is approved,

15 which means that our children would be going to

McCourt.

16 As I said, my son is in the sixth grade at North

**17 Cumberland. He has achieved academic success and
has**

18 become active in extracurricular activities there. He's

19 already getting stressed over the possibility of changing

20 schools next year. I believe this would be a traumatic

**21 experience for him. Although he has become friendly
with**

**22 some of the students that did not go to Community
School**

23 who are currently attending North Cumberland, he still is

24 maintaining most of his friendships with the close

25 friends that he made while at Community School and I

1 believe only one of them would be moved to McCourt
with

2 him. So he would essentially, it would be like he was
3 starting a new school.

4 My understanding is that the so-called overcrowding
5 situation at North Cumberland will fix itself after next
6 year, as enrollment at both middle schools is expected to
7 drop over the next five or six years. Even when we reach
8 the bubble year of 2012, 2013, the expected enrollment at
9 North Cumberland would still be almost a hundred fewer
10 students than what we have there now. Knowing this, it
11 seems pointless to move a handful of students out of

that

12 school and disrupt their lives to fix a problem that's

13 going to fix itself over the next few years.

14 I have lived in Cumberland for almost 12 years and

15 the whole time that I have been here the fact that Ashton

16 School gets split between two middle schools has been
an

17 issue that continually pops up, and if Plan B is adopted

18 it will not fix that problem, but will add another

19 problem of another split school, being Community
School.

20 Because Plan B does not seem to solve any problems

21 and only adds more for our students, for our children, I

22 beg you not to disrupt the lives of the students who are

23 already there, and not accept Plan B. Thank you for your
24 time.

25 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Excuse me, do you

55

1 want to submit that to the stenographer. Is that okay?

2 That's fine.

3 MASTER WALSH: Hello, my name is Thomas

4 Walsh, and I'm a student currently attending North

5 Cumberland Middle School, and if Plan B is accepted I

6 will be attending McCourt Middle School next year. Most

7 of my friends go, already go to, in fact, all my friends

8 go to North Cumberland Middle School, and very few of

9 them will be affected by the change in Plan B, and it
10 would, personally I think it would be really hard for me
11 to readjust a second time to middle school because if I
12 start McCourt Middle School in seventh grade, it will be
13 the same as starting North Cumberland Middle School in
14 sixth grade, and I will have to go through the same
15 experiences, and I think that will be very traumatic to
16 my life and all of the, and all of the kids who are going
17 to be switched with Plan B. Thank you for your time.
18 That's all I have to say.

19 (APPLAUSE)

20 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Anybody else on B?

21 MS. PROVOST: Hi, my name is Nadine Provost.

22 I live in Apple Ridge Estates, which is in the Bear Hill
23 area. I have two children that currently attend
24 Community School. One of my sons is in kindergarten,
and
25 my other son is in fifth grade. I would first like to

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1 commend the task force that was chosen for all of their
2 hard work and time that they dedicated. I attended every
3 Space Utilization meeting, with the exception of one, and
4 as you can imagine difficult decisions had to be made.
5 The reason I am here tonight is for my son Nicholas, who
6 is in the fifth grade at Community School. If Plan B is

7 chosen, he will be one of a handful of fifth graders that
8 will be affected. He has expressed to me on numerous
9 occasions how nervous he will be if he has to attend a
10 different school than the rest of his peers, and this
11 concerns me. It concerns me a lot. He has attended
12 Community School since he was in kindergarten. For six
13 years he has been with the same children and has
14 developed genuine friendships. I don't feel that it is
15 fair, and I expressed this with lots of emotion at the
16 task force meetings to have a child attend an elementary
17 school for six years, and in the sixth grade, which is a
18 very impressionable year not only physically but also
19 emotionally, send them to a different middle school than

20 the rest of their classmates. I don't feel this should
21 happen to any child in our school system, whether it is
22 Ashton, Community or Cumberland Hill, it is wrong.

There

23 is data that shows the transition year into middle school
24 is one of the most difficult that many students make.
25 This transition tends to destabilize many students,

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1 requiring them to reestablish a sense of their identity.
2 There is educational legitimacy to having students travel
3 to the same middle school. I don't see how you can
4 justify moving a handful of fifth graders to one middle

5 school and the bulk of the students to another middle
6 school. This would not be in the best interest of the
7 child. I am not a child psychologist, but I do know that
8 placing this type of anxiety on a child unnecessarily
9 would be a huge injustice.

10 Nicholas had expressed to me on several occasions
11 that he wanted to speak in front of the school committee
12 regarding this issue, and as a parent I told him I did
13 not think it was a good idea because this is an adult
14 forum. This is something Nicholas feels strongly about,
15 so he is here tonight to speak, and I'm very proud of
16 him. Thank you.

17 MR. COSTA: Nadine, can you put that into

18 the record?

19 MS. PROVOST: Yes, I will.

20 NICHOLAS PROVOST: My name is Nicholas

21 Provost, and I'm a student at Community School. I live

22 in Apple Ridge Estate, and I am in fifth grade. I have

23 been in Community School since I was in kindergarten. I

24 made some of the best friends I could ever wish for at

25 Community School. Every single one of these great

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1 friends will be going to North Cumberland Middle School.

2 I will be one of the few kids that will go to McCourt

3 Middle School. I really look forward to going to middle
4 school and seeing my old friends from Community and
one
5 of my best friends from Cumberland Hill, and now since I
6 might go to McCourt I am very nervous. I am scared and
7 afraid I will not have any friends at McCourt Middle
8 School. I also have been playing baseball for the past
9 five years. One of my dreams has been to play baseball
10 with my friends for the Middle School team. So please
11 listen to what I'm telling you, it is my life you will be
12 affecting and even more importantly you will be affecting
13 a lot of my friendships with my fellow students if you
14 move my neighborhood to McCourt. Thank you for
letting

15 me speak.

16 MR. COSTA: Thank you, Nicholas. Nicholas,

17 can you submit that nicely written letter to the

18 stenographer.

19 MR. ROTELLA: Anyone else on Bs?

20 MR. COSTA: Anybody on Bs?

21 MR. ROTELLA: Cs, anybody interested in

22 speaking Cs? I just want to remind everybody, if you

23 have not signed in on those sign-in sheets, would you

24 please make sure that your name is on there, so that we

25 can, we want to keep those sign-in sheets as a record

1 with the minutes of the meeting. Thank you. Grab that
2 mike and pull it down.

3 MR. COSTA: That's a boy.

4 SCOTT SMITH: My name is Scott Smith, and I

5 live on Cargill Road in the Bear Hill area. I'm here

6 tonight to ask you to let me attend North Cumberland

7 Middle School. Like me, my brothers, Nick and Tom,
both

8 started kindergarten at Community, and they were able to

9 follow their classmates to middle school. My brother,

10 Nick, is now at the high school, and my brother Tom is in

11 seventh grade and would like to finish his eighth grade

12 there.

13 **Please let me attend North Cumberland Middle School**

14 **next year alongside my brother Tom and my classmates**
from

15 **Community. Vote no to Plan B. Thank you.**

16 **MR. COSTA: Thank you.**

17 **MASTER HARTKE: Hello, my name is Joseph**

18 **Hartke, and I currently go to North Cumberland Middle**

19 **School as a sixth grader. My mom says I might have to**

20 **switch schools and go to McCourt Middle School next**
year.

21 **I don't want to switch schools. I made a lot of good**

22 **friends on the wrestling team this year. All of my**

23 **friends go to North. My mom says other kids are going**
to

24 **move from McCourt to North Cumberland Middle School,**

but

25 my mom told me the reason why I'm moving to McCourt
is

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1 because North Cumberland is too crowded. This makes
no

2 sense at all. I thought North Cumberland was too

3 crowded. Why are you moving more kids into the school

4 you just took me out of. This is just wrong. Please

5 don't move me and take all my friends away from me. It

6 would be very heartbreaking, a very heartbreaking move

7 for me. Thank you for your time.

8 (APPLAUSE)

9 **MR. COSTA:** Thank you. Joseph, submit that
10 to the stenographer.

11 **MR. HARTKE:** Hello, School Committee, I'm
12 Jim Hartke from Cargill Road. Thanks for letting me
13 speak. Schools are for the kids. They are our future.

14 I believe that is your charter as a school committee.

15 We've had a lot of emotional testimony here, but I ask
16 you to consider the facts. Facts are not emotional. The

17 Space Committee only unanimously approved Plan A.
Plan B

18 was approved with a seven to two vote. Has anyone
asked

19 those two members who voted no what their reasons
were.

20 They were part of the committee. They were more
21 engrossed in the facts and figures than I could ever be.
22 I think their reasoning for their no votes should be
23 considered by the committee. Many more qualified than
I
24 in education, my sister-in-law's husband is an
25 educational psychologist in New York, my brother is an

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1 educational psychologist in tests and measurements
who's
2 a mechanical engineer at Good Year Tire and Rubber
3 Company all say that moving kids out of schools that
they

4 are established in is just plain wrong. I tend to agree
5 with their well-educated opinion, plus everyone else kind
6 of shares the same thing, as do the kids.

7 As I have talked to members of the Space Planning
8 Committee and School Committee offline, the reason I'm
9 here for the move on Plan B is really two things, one,
10 we're a Space Utilization Committee, and, therefore, we
11 needed to recommend a change. The other was the
school

12 budget. So you're putting the budget problem right on
13 the backs of these poor displaced kids, and their
14 academic and social progress ends up being the price
15 related to this budget.

16 If you vote to move these kids, you should really

17 kind of be ashamed that, and realize that you failed in
18 basic management of the schools from the budget
19 committee, from a budget perspective, and you have laid
20 this right on their backs. There is other alternatives
21 that don't involve moving kids out of the schools that
22 they're established in.

23 I think moving those kids is against the basic
24 principles of it's for the kids, and they're our future.

25 Thank you for your time.

2 **MR. COSTA: Thank you, Jim, don't rip that**
3 **up. Submit it, Jim.**

4 **MR. HARTKE: Good luck reading it.**

5 **MR. COSTA: That's okay.**

6 **MS. POULIN: Good evening, my name is**

7 **Dominique Poulin. I live on Cargill Road. I have four**

8 **children, two sons at Community in second and third**
grade

9 **and then I have two other sons, one in sixth grade, one**

10 **is in seventh grade. My sixth grader attends North**

11 **Cumberland, and my oldest in the seventh grade is at Mt.**

12 **St. Charles. I want to speak about how wonderful their**

13 **experience was when they started sixth grade. It was**

14 **very exciting for them. They were moving all their**

15 grades, all their friends was moving together going into
16 the same new adventure of switching classes, having all
17 sorts of different teachers. It was very exciting. For

18 a couple of weeks both of them were coming home full
of

19 energy, full of enthusiasm. It was a wonderful

20 experience. They both had a great year. They're happy

21 with their friends. I did pull my seventh grader out of

22 there more as a concern for the high school, which is a

23 whole different story, but when I moved him he moved
by

24 himself. There was other kids from Community but a
small

25 group, and none of them were his friends, and it was
very

1 difficult for him. He was lonely and alone, well, he was
2 lonely, and it wasn't a very good experience for him.

3 I hope that you won't, that you will allow my two
4 younger children to have the same experience as their
5 older brother had for sixth grade, not to add on top of,
6 to keep that experience exciting, and not to add the
7 burden of being lonely on top of having to adjust to
8 switches and all of that. Thank you.

9 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Anybody on the Cs?

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. DUNCAN: Hi, my name is Donna Duncan.

12 I'm one of the parents whose children would be impacted

13 by middle school Plan B. I have a sixth grade daughter

14 at North Cumberland, and I have a son in fourth grade at

15 Community School. I live on Cider Court in the Bear Hill

16 area, and I oppose Plan B, and here are the reasons why.

17 There was no factual reason presented by the task force

18 that pointed to the need for this plan. This is

19 important, so let me repeat this, there was no factual

20 reason presented by the task force that pointed to the

21 need for this plan. It's really as simple as that. We

22 have not heard any valid reason to move Bear Hill from

23 North Cumberland to McCourt. Here are the facts that

we

24 did hear. Next year the number of students entering
25 North Cumberland is almost exactly what it is this year,

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1 and the number of students continuing to drop, not rise,
2 but drop over the next several years. This information
3 was given to you in your packet by the task force in your
4 recommendation, therefore, due to natural attrition and
5 increasing enrollment over the next several years, there
6 is no capacity issue at either school. In fact, the
7 number of students at North decreases by over 100
8 students over the next five years based on the data and

9 based on facts that you were given. Fact: There is no

10 capacity issue at North Cumberland. As a matter of fact,

11 with Plan A you will still be 123 students below, not

12 above, but below the 85 percent utilization rate number

13 that Kathy presented of 822 students. Again, there is no

14 issue here. Fact: With Plan B 99.3 percent of
Community

15 School, think about this, Community School, fifth
graders

16 99.3 percent go on to North Cumberland where only a
small

17 pocket of children, just the Bear Hill children go on to

18 McCourt. Kids make friends K through fifth only to have

19 those friends go on to another middle school. If there

20 is no real problem here, why are we doing this, and I

21 have heard argument, well, Ashton is split, it shouldn't
22 matter if we split up another elementary school. I would
23 counter the fact that just because it's been done before
24 doesn't make it a good thing, doesn't make it a right
25 decision, and why do it at all if there's no need to. In

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1 fact, two of the task force members actually did oppose
2 Plan B because there was no need in their mind for this
3 option. I would ask you to speak to each of them. These
4 are the same two people who did most of the number
5 crunching and collected the data for the plans.

6 Your decision could change my children's lives. I

7 don't know if in the long run if this will be a good

8 change or a bad change, but nobody should dispute or

9 dismiss the fact that their lives could change if, in

10 fact you change their schools. I just know there is no

11 need for this based on the information presented. My

12 daughter's best friend is somebody she met at
Community

13 School in kindergarten, again she's in sixth grade. This

14 was in kindergarten. I heard that once they go on to

15 middle school they make new friends. Her best friend
for

16 the last six years is somebody she met at Community

17 School. She's at five classes with her at North

18 Cumberland this year. You would you be breaking up
that
19 friendship.
20 My son will be in fifth grade at Community School
21 next year. I couldn't even imagine sitting down and
22 telling him, okay, Andrew, all of your friends are going
23 to this school, but you know what, you're going to
24 McCourt, and why, I wouldn't be able to tell him a reason
25 why because there hasn't been any presented.

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1 My after-school program would also have to change.
2 My kids go to the YMCA program after school at
Community

3 **School. My daughter takes a bus from North Cumberland**
to

4 **Community School's YMCA. These are teachers,**
instructors

5 **who have been there for seven years. You would be**

6 **changing my daughter's school, her after-school**
program,

7 **her friends, and friendships and all of her relationships**

8 **for no really good reason. And I know these types of**

9 **concerns are not considered by the task force when they**

10 **make their recommendations. I understand it's not part**

11 **of their charge to research these types of issues, but I**

12 **think the school committee has an obligation to**

13 **understand all of the issues that you would be creating**

14 with your decision.

15 The task force did not look at our children as

16 people. They looked at them as numbers. Once again, I

17 understand they were not charged to put a human factor
on

18 this, I get that, but when they were reading the street

19 names, and they were going through the task force
meeting

20 they were saying okay, one kid here on Cargill, and there

21 is one on Bear Hill, and there is one on Blossom Court,

22 we are sitting back and thinking, oh my God, that's

23 Joseph Hartke, that's Nicholas Provost, that's Jordan

24 Duncan, that's my daughter, and they didn't put a human

25 element on this, but we have to. I think I'm a

1 reasonable person. If there were a legitimate argument
2 presented to you as to why moving Bear Hill is necessary
3 for the greater good, if you will, I wouldn't have liked
4 it and all the issues I just stated still exist, but at
5 least I could rationalize this in my mind, but today
6 there has been no legitimate argument or reason
7 presented, and this means in my mind one of two things,
8 either there, one, is no legitimate reason or, two, we
9 haven't been given all the facts, either of which is just
10 wrong. In my mind it just doesn't add up.

11 I'm asking you to make a decision based on facts and

12 need, completely understand the ramification of your
13 decision and make a decision that is, above all else, in
14 the best interest of our children. Thank you for your
15 time.

16 (APPLAUSE)

17 MR. COSTA: Thank you, Mrs. Duncan. I
18 believe we are still on Cs.

19 MR. DeGUILIO: Yeah, we're still on Cs. My

20 name is Dennis DeGuilio. I'm from one of the
Cumberland

21 Hill neighborhoods that switched to Ashton. I'm not here
22 to speak in favor of A or B. I just want to make sure
23 that from this we don't try and fix a problem that

24 doesn't exist for my family, also my friends. My kids go

25 it Ashton, then they go to North Cumberland Middle.

They

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1 look forward going to North Cumberland. They have no

2 issues of going to one school and then to another. In

3 fact, they look forward to high school when they know

4 kids from both schools. So there is no problem. I just

5 want to make sure we don't go back and try and fix a

6 problem that doesn't exist for us. At least, in my

7 family and others I have talked to we have no issue with

8 going to Ashton and then a minority going to North

9 Cumberland Middle. The kids really look forward to it.

10 My daughter is going to North Cumberland Middle. I
have

11 four more coming. That's where they're going. That's

12 all I ask.

13 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Anybody still on the

14 Cs?

15 MS. FOLEY: My name is Hope Foley, and I'm a

16 resident of the Bear Hill neighborhood that Plan B will

17 affect. I have a daughter in the fourth grade at

18 Community School. The question tonight, I believe,

19 should be why. Why are we moving these students?
Does

20 it make sense to divide the children from their

**21 elementary school community and from the support of
their**

22 peers? We all know the transition to middle school is

23 well known to be a difficult one, and keeping students

24 together with their school community, with their friends

25 for support is best for our children. Plan B recommends

69

1 removing less than 10 percent of the fifth grade students

2 from Community School and moving them to McCourt.

For

3 what purpose? Again, I think we all ask you to please

4 base your decision on facts. Our neighborhood is no

5 closer to McCourt than it is to North. North Cumberland

6 has the capacity to handle these students. I refer again
7 to the Torrado Report completed in August of 2001, in
8 which it states that a target capacity for North
9 Cumberland would equal 822. Currently, there are only
10 690 there. There is room for these students. It's a
11 fact that enrollment is on the decline. The number of
12 students each year that are sent to McCourt from our

13 neighborhood would be less and less, and the
enrollment

14 situation will take care of itself within five years.

15 I respectfully ask the committee to consider Plan A
16 as the best choice for these students.

17 (APPLAUSE)

18 MR. TRIGO: My name is Paul Trigo. I live
19 on Cargill Road in Cumberland. My wife and I both grew
20 up in Cumberland, went through the Cumberland Public
21 School System, moved away and came back in 2006,
bought a
22 house I didn't even like, and just to put my kids in the
23 Cumberland School System. Now, you know, I'm a
parent, I
24 raise my kids as best as I can, but you're hearing it
25 from the kids, for God's sake, these are the people that

70

1 are going to be affected. I'm not going to be affected
2 but they are, so take into consideration their feelings,

3 their friends, everything that has to do with the kids

4 because they're our future, so, that's all I have to say.

5 Thank you.

6 (APPLAUSE)

7 MR. COSTA: Excuse me. What's your name

8 again?

9 MR. TRIGO: Paul Trigo, T-R-I-G-O. Thank

10 you.

11 MR. COSTA: Okay. Anybody else under the

12 Cs? Any other Cs? Move on to D.

13 MR. ROTELLA: Anybody wish to speak on the

14 Ds, D list? E, anybody wish to speak on the Es? F,

15 anybody wish to speak on the F? G, anybody wish to

speak

16 on the Gs? H, anybody wish to speak on H?

17 MS. BEAULEIU: I have a question. On the

18 Hs, for Hines Road there is currently a student at North

**19 Cumberland Middle School at street number 167, both
plans**

**20 have 167 attending McCourt. Would that child be
allowed**

21 to remain at North Cumberland Middle should Plan A be

22 approved or would that child be moved regardless?

23 MR. BARLOW: Is that Hines Road?

24 MS. BEAULEIU: Yes.

25 MR. BARLOW: It may have been that to some

1 extent exact number was unknown.

2 MS. BEAULEIU: Say again?

3 MR. BARLOW: It may be that the exact number

4 was, of the road was unknown.

5 MS. MORELLE: The recommendation of the task

6 force was that students who would be moving up to
grades

7 seven and eight would be grandfathered so as not to

8 disrupt that, but we would have to wait for the, first of

9 all, the committee to approve that, and for you to be

10 directed with administration as to whether or not you

11 wanted to accept that grandfathered rule.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do you pay for

13 bussing if you do that, one kid from one house. Does
the

14 bus come by?

15 MS. MORELLE: There are circumstances that

16 we do, will accommodate that if it's a decision of the

17 school district.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It costs extra.

19 MS. MORELLE: That's why it would have to be

20 directed by the school committee.

21 MR. COSTA: Let's keep on task, Mr. Gibbons.

22 MR. GIBBONS: I'm just looking at my list

23 for Hines Road. My list has Hines Road numbers 1-149,

24 which is south of New York Avenue. We actually

25 identified it as going to McCourt, and then 150 and up,

72

1 which is north of the New York Avenue was going to
North.

2 MS. MORELLE: You submitted Oakledge.

3 MR. ROTELLA: John, looking at the list

4 submitted by the task force those are different numbers.

5 Our list says 1 to 184, 185 and up.

6 MR. BARLOW: We changed that.

7 MR. ROTELLA: Oakledge as the divider.

8 MR. GIBBONS: I have so many street lists in

9 my file. I might have grabbed one that wasn't the most

10 up to date.

11 MR. ROTELLA: I believe that's the
12 information that we gave out to the ordinance in the
13 forms that we passed out.

14 MR. BARLOW: So you're saying someone at 167
15 goes to North.

16 MS. BEAULEIU: 167 Hines, which is south of
17 Oakledge is going to North. There is a student currently
18 at North Cumberland Middle as a sixth grader.

19 MS. MORELLE: I don't think we should be
20 discussing that.

21 MR. COSTA: We are just going to get
22 testimony this evening, get some facts, and the decision

23 is not going to be made tonight anyway, Mrs. Beauleiu,
so

24 just keep that question for later. We'll continue.

25 MR. ROTELLA: H. I. J. K. L.

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1 MR. WOOD: If you looked at this list,

2 you're going to see I think the only thing we have left

3 are Ms and Ss.

4 MR. COSTA: I think Os, too.

5 MR. ROTELLA: I understand that, Mr. Wood, I

6 just want to make sure that if anybody has an issue that

7 we give them the opportunity.

8 **MR. COSTA:** Right, continue, Mr. Rotella.

9 **MR. ROTELLA:** L is the last one. M, anybody

10 have an M. N. O.

11 **MS. FOWNES:** I'm actually not an O, but

12 Deanne is going to let me take her turn because she's

13 Oakledge. Just cut in front. I'm on Waterman Farm
Road.

14 My name is Jodi Fownes. I have a son in eighth grade

15 that's going to be going to the high school next year and

16 one in fifth grade who is one of the affected ones in

17 this neighborhood. A couple of things, first, I would

18 like a note on the record that I don't think anybody I

19 know of received a letter informing us about this meeting

20 in the mail. I don't know if anybody got one.

21 (APPLAUSE)

22 MS. FOWNES: I don't know when that was sent

23 out, but as of this afternoon it was still not in my

24 mailbox.

25 MR. THIBODEAU: Just a point of order, I

74

1 would like to redirect the superintendent to resend the

2 letters out if that's the case, for the next meeting.

3 MR. ROTELLA: May I clarify that for a

4 minute?

5 MR. WAGNER: Absolutely.

6 **MR. ROTELLA: We sent letters to the list of**

7 **streets where there are changes in the elementary,**

8 **because there was an elementary list. Okay. Every**

9 **street that had a change identified received letters.**

10 **The letters were sent out with 560 some-odd letters. As**

11 **far as the middle schools were concerned, we passed,**
we

12 **had a notice passed at every school in the elementary**
and

13 **middle school district that identified for people the**

14 **fact that we were having two meetings, one tonight and**

15 **one next week, and those notices were given to students**

16 **to take home, and I believe the super intendant intends**

17 **on doing that again for the next meeting, making sure**

18 that in fact notice goes out to each student.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can she list the

20 streets that are affected because as you saw, the letter

21 is very vague, so unless you attended these meetings, I,

22 you know, I have been to every meeting, but if someone

23 lives on Blossom Court and got that in their backpack

24 they wouldn't have a clue as to what was going on. So if

25 you could list those middle school streets. There is not

75

1 a hundred of them in the Bear Hill area, there is a few.

2 If you don't want to remail them because none of the

3 people in the Bear Hill area got one, if you want to list
4 them in the backpacks if they're going to submit that in
5 a letter that too would be fair.

6 MR. COSTA: That's fine. Continue.

7 MS. FOWNES: I just want to say that I think
8 we need to speak to the facts. I don't have all the
9 facts. I know that everybody here is going to be much
10 more eloquent than I am. My elder son has been through
11 North Cumberland. His brother has listened to him for
12 all these years, he would like those same experiences.
13 If he needs to go to McCourt, and I have told my son
14 you're probably going to McCourt, he'll be fine with
15 that. He's upset that he's going to miss his friends.

16 What I haven't heard, and what still hasn't been said is
17 a reason why he needs to move. If you go with option B,
18 and you're going to continue to grandfather in the sixth
19 and seventh graders who are currently at North
Cumberland
20 and are going to stay there then it seems to me that
21 there are less than 15 children that this is going to
22 affect, and how does that save you space. How does
that
23 save you money? It doesn't seem to me that I have been
24 shown that there is any reason why this has to happen
25 except for change for change sake, and I'll leave it with

1 one more thing, I attended the fifth grade D.A.R.E

2 (phonetic) graduation, and Dr. Morelle had a beautiful

3 eloquent speech, and she mentioned how her children
met

4 their best friends in the fifth grade. My son has met

5 his best friends, and now he's going to be separated from

6 them, and I'm concerned about that.

7 (APPLAUSE)

8 MR. COSTA: Did you sign the, you signed it.

9 MS. KWIATKOWSKI: My name is Ellen

10 Kwiatkowski. I live on Waterman Farm Road. Deanne is

11 going to let me go ahead. My son, Eddy, is a sixth

12 grader at North Cumberland Middle School, and I would

13 like to tell you that today is the day that I found out
14 that he had a notice in his backpack that all the
15 children were told to take on Friday. I thought that
16 they were going to be sent to the parents, not put in
17 backpacks. All of us know what we find in backpacks.

We

18 don't get what we need in backpacks. We needed
19 notification of this meeting, proper notification of this
20 meeting, and proper notification of this meeting is not
21 being put in a backpack. It is to be sent to the
22 parents, not in the backpacks of the children. Why
23 couldn't you have done it for the middle school? We are
24 just as important, if not, we are, my son's right now in
25 sixth grade. He may have to go to McCourt. It was a

1 **tough enough transition, now he's going to transition**

2 **again, but you must notify us by mail, we need that.**

3 **Please respect us, and notify us by mail. Thank you.**

4 **MR. COSTA: Thank you. Could you sign your**

5 **name, please?**

6 **(APPLAUSE)**

7 **MR. COSTA: Mrs. MacBeth.**

8 **MRS. MACBETH: Can I ask something? I do**

9 **see Mr. Kenworthy here, part of the list, sir, for North**

10 **Cumberland Middle School, how many parents belong to**

that

11 list, sir, that we could send this notice out to.

12 MR. KENWORTHY: We have 635 e-mail

13 addresses, and I assume that that counts for the

14 majority.

15 MRS. MACBETH: Can we also e-mail that?

16 MS. MORELLE: Absolutely.

17 MS. KWIATKOWSKI: I just forgot one thing.

18 I also kind of think it's ironic that tonight at North

19 Cumberland Middle School the PTO is hosting an anxiety
in

20 the middle school workshop for middle school students,

21 and we are here with the anxiety. They should have
come

22 here.

23 **MR. COSTA: Joe, we're on M.**

24 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm sorry, we're**

25 **still on Os.**

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1 **MS. ROSS: How are you all doing tonight?**

2 **My name is Deanne Ross for those of you I haven't met**
on

3 **the phone, it's nice to meet you in person tonight. I**

4 **live on 14 Oakledge Road in Cumberland. I have lived**

5 **here for about, hang on, I can only do one thing, thank**

6 **you. How long have we lived here, hun, about 12 years,**

7 **about 12 years. When my son was first born, we moved**

8 into Cumberland, and we planned to build a family here

9 and we have. I have three children. My oldest is 12

10 years old, his name is Austin. He is a student at North

11 Cumberland Middle School. I'm not sure which gene
pool

12 it came from, but he's a very smart boy. He is a high

13 honor student, and he participates in sports at North

14 Cumberland Middle School. He participates in soccer.
He

15 participates in wrestling, and he's also trying out for

16 the baseball team, we'll see how that goes. He's a good

17 student. He enjoys his friends. His friends also have

18 been with him for pretty much first grade at Community

19 School. I have another son whose name is Spencer.

He's

20 a doll. He's in fifth grade now. The transition from
21 sixth grade is a traumatic one, and for all children they
22 handle it differently. He will be transferring to a
23 school next year, and at this point I'm a little nervous
24 as to what that will mean for him, and then I have a
25 daughter, her name is Julianne. She's in third grade at

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1 Community School. So as you can see I do have a
vested
2 interest in this. I certainly am speaking from my point
3 of view, but the other thing I do want to reiterate, and

4 I won't go into it too much but the whys of this is very
5 important, and that is really why are you doing this and
6 what good is it for our community, for our schools, for
7 our families, and most importantly for our students, and
8 you guys did a great job tonight.

9 I am an educator. I enjoy it. I love it. I'm
10 excited about it. It's a second career for me, but I'm
11 having a great time with it. The other thing I want to
12 talk about a little bit, now that I have talked about
13 some of the emotion and the whys, which, by the way, I
14 don't even know if the Space Utilization Committee was
15 supposed to be even moving children in the middle
school,
16 but evidently this is one of the plans that came out of

17 it, so we'll work with what we have, but the second thing
18 with the why is we heard about the facts with space, we
19 heard about the facts with money, and we heard about
the
20 facts of geography, so geography really wasn't an issue
21 with Plan B or Plan A, really at all. I think
22 Mr. Gibbons reiterated that tonight. Space is not an
23 issue, and I do have some additional facts and
24 information I would like to provide you with tonight
25 which I will do, but also money, I want to just speak to

1 money for a little bit. One of the concerns is that we

**2 want to have some savings somewhere or especially in
this**

**3 tough economic time. My understanding is that the North
4 Cumberland Middle School is actually going to be cutting
5 a sixth grade teacher, so that speaks to not only money
6 but that also speaks to space, so I'm really not sure how
7 any changes really need to be made at this point. So
8 that's another fact that wasn't brought out earlier.**

**9 Also, I know McCourt, McCourt's budget is kind of
relaxed**

**10 about cutting students, and I know there are some other
11 issues involved in that, so I see this as a problem,
12 okay. I see this as a major problem, and when I look at
13 problems I often try to look at solutions, and I don't**

14 usually like to state that I have a problem with
15 something unless I look at a couple of solutions to it,
16 and one of things that I was curious about, and I did ask
17 about was why other solutions weren't looked at. I don't
18 really know why, and I can speculate why, but that's
19 pretty fruitless at this point. I would like to offer
20 you another solution to our problem, and the solution I
21 would like to offer you is one that's based on feeder
22 schools. I have kind of taken a look at feeder schools.
23 Other school districts within the State of Rhode Island,
24 as well as other states, use feeder schools as a system
25 to help transition children. Now, there is some

1 educational research to support the fact that when you
2 keep groups, specifically elementary schools, of children
3 together, and transition them, that transition is easier
4 for them. I could probably bore you with quite a few
5 details with that, but there was a position paper
6 currently adopted by the National Middle School
7 Association and the National Association for Elementary
8 School Principals, and here they espouse a way to make
9 sure that this transition, which is a very shocking one,
10 because they're going through adolescence they urge
11 parents, school leaders, they urge them to work together

12 to help children, okay, and one of the ways you can do
13 that is you can begin as early as grade five to in turn
14 this smooth transition. It's very difficult to do,
15 though, when you split a school. That transition then is
16 divided for them.

17 Now, again, I like to try and promote solutions, and
18 I do have some facts and figures to look at another plan
19 that might be equally, if not, I think, a better solution

20 to some of the problems we have. For example, right
now

21 this was talked about before, that we have Cumberland
22 Hill and Community, Cumberland Hill being almost a
23 four-track school, one room short, Community being a
24 five-track school, so that would be a nine-track school

25 feeding into North Cumberland Middle School which is,

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1 again, a nine-track school. Then, I mean, if you're kind

2 of looking at keeping groups of children together and not

3 dividing our community, you can have Ashton, B.F.

Norton

4 and Garvin, which are each three-track schools, K-9, feed

5 into McCourt Middle School, so basically it would be a

6 nine-track school, a nine-track school, and this does a

7 few things, number one, it supports the educational

8 validity of keeping children together --

9 THE REPORTER: Excuse me, I need to change

10 my paper.

11 MS. ROSS: I will wrap it up. I will wrap

12 it up by letting you take a look at some of these

13 numbers. What I did was compare the utilization rates

14 and the capacity numbers for both North Cumberland
and

15 McCourt should a change like this occur, and the
numbers

16 are very good. As you know, the utilization is going

17 down. We are no longer in the 85 percent target, in

18 either school, and that's just going down in the future

19 with the numbers dropping. So I will present you with

20 these, take a look at them, and Mr. Costa, if you say my

21 time is up, that's absolutely fine. Can I submit these

22 to you and --

23 MR. COSTA: The stenographer.

24 MS. ROSS: Thank you very much for your
25 time.

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1 (APPLAUSE)

2 MR. GIBBONS: Don, if I could just have one

3 more minute, because I'm not going to be able to be at

4 the next public hearing. I heard a few things here

5 tonight that I just want to clear up. First of all, we

6 never discussed budget or money at all in this issue, and

7 I hear that come up a couple times, and that was never
8 part of our discussion.

9 MR. COSTA: They shouldn't be.

10 MR. GIBBONS: No, and it was not. Just so
11 the committee knows, and then the other thing is I had
12 never seen the report that everyone has been referring to
13 tonight, but what we did do in the process, one of the
14 first things we did was to ask both middle school
15 principals to make a presentation. Armand obviously is
16 on our committee and Tom Kenwood (sic) both came
and made
17 a presentation. The presentation that we got from
18 Mr. Kenwood was much different than what I'm hearing
19 about 70 percent of the school being currently utilized.

20 According to Mr. Kenwood's presentation to our
committee,

21 Kenworthy, I'm sorry, Kenworthy, the school is tight and
22 a lot of the classes are actually, we are paying overage
23 to teachers because those classes are overloaded, and --

24 (UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS)

25 MR. GIBBONS: Folks, I just want to make a

84

1 statement.

2 MR. COSTA: Excuse me, Mr. Gibbons has the
3 floor. It's got nothing to do with the budget, forget
4 the budget. Mr. Gibbons, please.

5 **MR. GIBBONS:** And I just want to reiterate

6 **what information was given to us, and what we work with.**

7 **Now, I think that, you know, maybe at the beginning of**

8 **the next public hearing it might be good to hear from the**

9 **middle school principal in North Cumberland because**
this

10 **was, this was the information that we got, that we got**

11 **from the schools, and this is the information that we**

12 **worked with. And having sent children, not that long**

13 **ago, to North Cumberland Middle, the schools are not**
wide

14 **open for space, and I think that needs to be explored a**

15 **little bit, because I'm going to tell you if that school**

16 **is wide open if we can put 900 kids there, then I think**

17 in the next couple of years we can probably close the
18 middle school according to the numbers, if budgets get
19 tight, and I don't think there is anybody in this room
20 that believes that you can put 900 kids in that school.

21 That's my opinion, and I think you guys have done a
great

22 job tonight. I know everybody here tonight speaks very
23 eloquently, and they're concerned about their own

24 children, and you guys have some tough decisions to
make.

25 MR. COSTA: Let's make one point clear, the

1 task force job was to do space utilization. It has got
2 nothing to do with the budget, whatsoever.

3 MR. GIBBONS: And a street list for the
4 middle schools.

5 MR. COSTA: Street list, but the budget
6 concerns are the school committee's concerns. We went
7 over that a few weeks back. We had submitted a budget
to
8 the town, and that's where it stands right now, so, I
9 want to make it clear the task force duties were just for
10 space utilization, nothing to do with the budget
11 whatsoever. So let's get that point cleared up.

12 Dr. Morelle, we are about approaching the ten
13 o'clock curfew. We have Os.

14 **MS. MORELLE:** I just want to make one other
15 comment with regard to data that we provided the task
16 force, and I will provide to the school committee, and I
17 will have it available for committee members on the 20th.
18 I will actually post it on the website for the public,
19 and that was the, about a ten-year track record of
20 students at the elementary level that had been moved on
21 an annual basis from their neighborhood schools that
22 created the reason why the task force was put in place in
23 the first place. I heard that come up repeatedly tonight
24 also, and I would provide that to the public.

25 **MR. COSTA:** I believe we have Michelle and a

1 woman up in the back, if we could limit these two people,
2 and then continue at the Thursday the 20th meeting
3 because it is approaching the ten o'clock.

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I will stay here till
5 1:00 in the morning.

6 MR. COSTA: What's that?

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll stay here till
8 1:00 in the morning. Can we talk at the next meeting?

9 MR. COSTA: Absolutely.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, okay.

11 MR. COSTA: You will be able to speak at the

12 next meeting. We're not going to cut off any

13 discussions. It's the same format. Michelle, go ahead.

14 MS. D'ABROSCA: My name is Michelle

15 D'Abrosca, and these are my three children, and my

16 husband. They all attend Community School. It is my

17 understanding that the NESDEC report to the
Cumberland

18 School Committee in December of 2007 projected a

19 decreased number of students entering the middle
school

20 grades over the next several years. I also understand

21 the space utilization committee members noted the
space

22 problems at the middle school may take care of
themselves

23 with time. The space utilization committee reported that
24 there are currently 14 fifth graders, 16 sixth graders,
25 and 11 seventh graders who live in the affected area
from

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1 Community School. The committee did not report the
2 number of students affected beyond this year's fifth
3 grade class. In Community the following represents the
4 current number of students by grade that are affected.
5 There are nine fourth grade students, four of which are
6 boys, five girls, twelve third grade students, five boys,
7 seven girls. There are nine second grade students, five

8 boys, four girls, and there are eight first grade
9 students, five boys, and three girls. Community
10 elementary is a five-track school, and it is not best
11 educational practices to displace a handful of children
12 at a critical time in their academic, biologic, and
13 social development when reports show this proposed
14 problem will correct itself with time. I urge you to
15 please vote yes to Plan A, and no to Plan B.

16 MR. COSTA: Thank you, Michelle. Steve.

17 MR. D'ABROSCA: My name is Steven D'Abrosca.

18 I was not planning on speaking tonight, but I have to
19 point out something. I am here with a ten, eight, and
20 six year old, and my two kids are very interested in this

21 decision, and I would imagine that these kids as young
as
22 six years old could sit here for two and a half, what
23 they must assume to be very boring hours, this well
24 behaved; they are interested, they want to stay at
25 Community; they want to stay with their friends; they

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1 want to go to North. Even my six year old has told me
2 that.

3 MR. COSTA: Emily, is this meeting as boring
4 as my practices? Emily, are these meetings as boring as
5 my practices. She's one of my players.

6 MS. ERICKSON: Yes, my name is Pat Erickson.

7 I live at 44 Rockycrest Road, and I appreciate you taking

8 me to speak tonight. I won't be able to be here next

9 Thursday.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear you.

11 Please use the mike.

12 MR. COSTA: Can you use the mike, ma'am.

13 MS. ERICKSON: My name is Pat Erickson. I

14 live at 44 Rockycrest Road. I have a second grader and

a

15 fourth grader at Ashton Elementary School, and I

16 appreciate you taking my turn here tonight because I

17 won't be able to be here next week, and I just want to give

18 voice to a small minority of kids that, I appreciate the

19 emotion in the room tonight, and I think that the public
20 children in my neighborhood that have been impacted in
21 the last few years, because it's a small minority, nobody
22 knows their story, and I think it was important for me to
23 give a voice tonight so that this experience doesn't
24 repeat itself. Ten years ago my neighborhood was
25 redistricted from Cumberland Hill to Ashton. My kids,

my

1 firstborn was a baby at the time, so truly I wasn't
2 affected. My kids go to Ashton. They love it. I have
3 been thrilled with the school, and we're in one of the

4 swing neighborhoods where a small handful of children
5 from Ashton then have traditionally gone to North
6 Cumberland Middle School. In any event, I think it was
7 approximately three years ago that for reasons that I
8 don't understand that there is not an overcrowding issue
9 at North Cumberland Middle. It was decided very last
10 minute, several days before the end of the school year,
11 that the small group of children that normally go to
12 Cumberland Middle School from the Mendon Road area
would
13 be going to McCourt. They received letters, my
14 understanding is, several days before the end of school
15 thinking they were going to one middle school, telling

16 them no, they indeed were going to McCourt, a school
that

17 they had no knowledge that they were going to in the

18 fall. This was, you know, days before the end of their

19 fifth grade school year. I would not want that

20 experience to be repeated for my neighborhood or for
any

21 of your neighborhoods. I don't understand, I don't claim

22 to understand the numbers, whether North Cumberland

23 Middle, is, was overcrowded three years ago, continues
to

24 be, I don't know. I have seen minute meetings from a

25 school committee meeting ten years ago, where a school

in

1 committee member said that after this redistricting the
2 elementary school, that these handful of neighborhoods
3 would always go to North Cumberland Middle. That was
4 the minutes. I think, as I have said before when I have
5 attended some of the task force meetings, I think it's
6 important to have a plan B. I don't know if it's needed
7 or not, but I think it's important to have a plan so that
8 if the numbers don't come out as they're estimated is
9 there a project that gets built that go up in the north
10 part of the district, and all of a sudden there is an
11 influx of kids in North Cumberland Middle without having
12 a plan. I wouldn't want a group of kids to be

13 cherry-picked by any administrator or anyone without
the

14 kind of public forum that we all appreciated, I think,

15 this time around. Thank you.

16 MR. COSTA: Thank you. Have you signed your

17 name? Thank you. At this point in time it is

18 approaching, it should be about ten o'clock. We would

19 like to conclude this portion of the school committee on

20 the public testimony and invite people back on the 20th

21 of March. We will continue the testimony on the 20th,

22 and if need be, because I have some questions of the
task

23 force, but I think I want to hear all the testimony

24 prior, and then I will ask some questions at the next

25 meeting, or subsequent meeting, so, I want to thank the

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1 people who attended this evening, and thank you for your
2 input, and we'll come back on the 20th.

3 MRS. MACBETH: Can I just ask that we have
4 the 20th meeting videotaped for those of us that can't
5 attend it because we have prior commitments.

6 MR. COSTA: That's fine. Dr. Morelle, can
7 we have it videotaped?

8 (Dr. Morelle nodding)

9 MR. COSTA: A motion is in order to adjourn.

10 **MR. WAGNER: So moved.**

11 **MR. THIBODEAU: Second.**

12 **MR. COSTA: Motion by Mr. Wagner, seconded**

13 **by Mr. Thibodeau. Any discussion? Hearing none. All**
in

14 **favor?**

15 **(AYE)**

16 **MR. COSTA: Against? Ayes have it. Thank**

17 **you.**

18 **(HEARING CLOSED AT 10:00 P.M.)**

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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**I, Tracy L. Shepherd, do hereby certify
that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete
transcript of my notes taken at the above-entitled
hearing.**

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8 **IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto set my hand**
this 18th day of March 2008.

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TRACY SHEPHERD, RPR, NOTARY PUBLIC
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 8/26/09

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DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 2008

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IN RE: Public Hearing

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HEARING OF: Cumberland School Committee

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